UKRAINIAN NEWS
УКРАЇНСЬКІ ВІСТІ

Edmonton, Aug. 7 - 20, 2008 Vol. LXXXI № 15, Price: $1.75

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PHOTO — WEBSITE OF THE PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE

President Viktor Yushchenko visits a flood-stricken village in Ivano-Frankivsk.

42 dead in Ukraine, Romania floods

Ukrainian Canadian community begins relief efforts

By Marco Levytsky

(Incorporating reports from RFE/RL/Ukrainian Journal/Ukrainian Ministry of Health/Embassy of Ukraine in Canada/Ukrainian Canadian Congress/Ukrainian World Congress/CNEWA)

The death toll from floods in western Ukraine, which began July 27, reached 38 people as of Aug. 5, reports the Ukrainian Ministry of Health.

These include 24 people in the Ivano-Frankivsk region, while 12 were killed in the Chernivtsi region and two in the Vinnytsia region, stated the Ministry in an update posted on its website, Aug. 5.

Eight of those killed were children — seven in Ivano-Frankivsk and one in Chernivtsi

In neighboring Romania, another four people died in floods in the northeastern county of Maramures. The Bucharest government put up 50 million lei ($22 million) to rebuild damaged infrastructure and provide aid to affected villagers.

Officials said close to 20,000 residents had fled their homes.

In addition to the death toll, the ravaging thunderstorms caused catastrophic damages in the regions of Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, Zakarpattya, Ternopil, Chernivtsi and Vinnytsia, reported the Press Office of the Ukrainian Embassy in Canada

Forty thousand homes and 33,000 hectares of arable land have been flooded, 185 towns and villages left without power, 360 overpasses, 561 pedestrian bridges and 680 km of highways have been severely damaged or destroyed. According to preliminary estimates, the damages amount to at least 7 billion hryvnias, or more than $1.5 billion.

A senior minister described the flooding as the worst in a century, with the Prut and Dnister rivers rising to dangerous levels.

It is widely believed that one of the main reasons for the severe flooding seen in Ukraine, Romania, and Moldova in recent years is that deforested regions are less able to absorb water. In addition, nothing

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Publication Mail Agreement #40007679, paid at Edmonton, Alberta. PAP Number: 08935

We acknowledge the assistance of the Government of Canada through the Publications Assistance Program toward our mailing costs.

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PHOTO — THE DAUPHIN HERALD

Vohon blazes

Edmonton's Vohon Ukrainian dancers blaze away during the grandstand show at Canada's National Ukrainian Festival held at Dauphin, Man., Aug. 2-4 The festival showcases Ukrainian culture to visitors from around the world. For more, see Page 8 of this issue.

До Закарпаття почали надходити гуманітарні вантажі з Європи

(Радіо Свобода)—До Закарпатської області почи–нають надходити гуманітарні вантажі від країн Євросоюзу.

4 серпня великий гуманітарний вантаж надійшов від уряду Угорщини – його вартість оцінюється в 650 тисяч доларів США. В 7 вантажних автомобілях – складові для реконструкції та розширення спільної українсько-угорської системи спостереження за річками «Тиса», 5 комплектів гідронасосів, здатні відкачувати 250 літрів води за секунду, копрова установка та компресор, медичне обладнання і препарати, засоби для освітлення дамб, спеціальне обладнання для укріплення дамб, 22 тисячі мішків для піску, 25 тисяч метрів спеціальної плівки тощо.

5 серпня надійшов вантаж від уряду Словаччини. Його представники передали гуманітарну допомогу для потерпілих унаслідок повені мешканців Рахів–ського району Закарпаття. Це – продукти харчування, одяг, а також дві тисячі євро для потерпілих.

6 серпня німецький благодійний фонд «Допомога народові України», який неодноразово надавав допо–могу різного соціального характеру Закарпатській області, висловив намір вкотре допомогти області з прискоренням ліквідації наслідків стихійного лиха. Представники фонду зустрічалися з керівництвом Закарпаття, щоб виробити пріоритети в наданні допомоги, визначити найнеобхідніші заходи, облад–нання тощо. За попередніми даними, допомога з Німеччини повинна надійти вже після 20 серпня.

Крім того, своє бажання допомогти Закарпаттю вже висловили уряди Швейцарії та Італії. З дня на день очікують велику партію мийних та дезинфі–кувальних засобів для Закарпаття від Національного Червоного Хреста України.

Наразі, за інформацією управління інформації та зв'язків із громадськістю Закарпатської облдержад–міністрації, на благодійні рахунки надійшло понад 277,6 тисячі гривень, зокрема, 100 тисяч від Донець–кої облдержадміністрації, 70 тисяч 622 гривні – від профспілок Пенсійного фонду Дніпропетровської області, 5 тисяч 128 гривень – від фонду майна Автономної Республіки Крим.

Ющенко пропонує евакуювати людей ще до стихійних лих

(Українська правда)—Президент Віктор Ющенко пропонує протягом одного фінансового року ство–рити нову загальнонаціональну систему оповіщення про стихійні лиха.

Про це він сказав журналістам у Львівській області, де знаходиться з робочою поїздкою, конт–ролюючи хід ліквідації наслідків повені, повідомляє "Інтерфакс-Україна".

"Мені здається, що одного фінансового року достатньо для створення нової національної системи оповіщення населення", - сказав президент, 5 серпня.

За його словами, якби існувала така загаль–нонаціональна система, то збитки від стихійних явищ, таких, як повінь, можна було б зменшити на 1/4, або навіть на 1/3.

Ющенко також повідомив, що тиждень тому на засіданні РНБО це питання було піднято, і зараз готуються документи про те, щоб протягом місяця підготувати проекти рішень про створення такої служби на основі системи оповіщення медиків, пожежних та МНС.

Президент вважає, що така служба повинна бути обладнана необхідним інструментарієм, і, крім того, повинна мати повноваження, щоб евакуювати людей до стихійних лих, а не під час них.

"Уроки, що ми виносимо з цієї трагедії, підводять нас до того, що в країні повинна працювати єдина служба оповіщення", - додав він.

Ющенко оглянув кілька місць, де була прорвана дамба на річці Стрий, а також місце пошкодження газопроводу високого тиску.

Після цього президент вилетів у Львів.

Дохлі хробаки і щурі плавають у воді в затоплених житлових будинках

Галина Терещук, *Радіо Свобода*

На Львівщині, 30 липня, 9 районів і 4 міста обласного значення ще залишалися підтопленими. Три населені пункти повністю без електропостачання. Постраждалі подали свої заяви у сільські ради та мерії про завдані повінню збитки і кажуть, що самі вони не зможуть подолати наслідки стихії. У найскладнішій ситуації перебувають сотні мешканців села Гірське. Однак повені у цьому селі можна було б уникнути, якби у 90-х роках збудували належну дамбу зі шлюзами.

Село Гірське Миколаївського району розташоване за 60 кілометрів від Львова. У верхній частині села важко навіть уявити, що в долині, за 300 метрів у ніч із неділі на понеділок вода підтопила більше ніж півсотню будинків, майже під вікна. За три дні вода спала лише на 20 сантиметрів. Селяни позалишали свої хати і ночують по сусідах, а вдень зі сльозами обходять в гумаках подвір'я і журяться:

– У хаті треба все міняти: і меблі, і підлогу. Одяг треба з місяць сушити, буде страшний неприємний запах. У хаті не ночую, вночі стою тут машиною і пильную. Як жити? Так і будемо жити… Мама в шоці, пішла звідси, десь на цвинтар.

– Владі байдуже, ніхто нічим не займається, скрізь сморода. Треба трохи людям приділити увагу, подивіться, що робиться. Не можна ні худоби вигнати, нічого.

– Що їмо, трохи родина помагає. Город понищило, стайню. Все пішло спати, нічого не лишилось. Най трохи держава нам допоможе, як дамо собі раду?

До 30 липня людям не виплатили навіть по обіцяній тисячі гривень. Вони не вірять у допомогу.

Олександр Дацiв ці дні працює вільним човнярем. Перевозить людей до їхніх хат. Протягом години на човні ми обдивлялись покинуті будинки, серед яких і хата пана Дацiва. Вода підійшла майже під вікна, у кімнатах так підняло підлогу, що усю треба міняти, по стінах грибок.

Ця повінь, за пам'яті Олександра Дацiва, уже третя. Востаннє так підтопило село у 1989 році. В 90-х насипали дамбу, але вона не міцна. Селяни кажуть, що дамба була зроблена абияк. Люди переконані, що вода спаде і про них забудуть.

У воді, яка підтопила будинки, городи й сільські дороги, плаває маса дохлих хробаків, щурів, усі нечистоти з туалетів. Уся ця інфекція — в криницях. «У мене болить живіт, я випив поганої води», – каже 4-річний Мар'янчик.

Санітарні лікарі у Гірському ще не були. За словами селян, вода спадатиме близько двох тижнів, а потім стоятиме страшний сморід і, мабуть, інфекції не уникнути. Люди вимагатимуть, щоб у селі збудували міцну дамбу зі шлюзами, а ще, щоб їм допомогли викачати брудну воду із криниць.

Лісоводи відкидають звинувачення у спричиненні стихійного лиха

Галина Добош, *Радіо Свобода*

Екологи звинувачують лісівників у надмірному вирубуванні лісів і називають це однією з причин повені. Лісоводи ж такі звинувачення відкидають і кажуть: основна причина в природних факторах. І ті, й інші сходяться в одному: слід розробити стратегію технології ведення лісового господарства з урахуванням екологічних чинників.

Лісове господарство Івано-Франківщини підраховує свої збитки від стихії: зруйновано кожний сьомий кілометр лісових доріг, понад 150 мостів. А тут ще звинувачення, що основна причина стихії – вирубування лісів.

Це найлегше і найпростіше – зробити винними лісоводів, каже новопризначений керівник Держкомлісгоспу, до цього народний депутат із фракції комуністів Микола Тимошенко, хоча додає: вину частково визнають. «Одна з причин такої страшної трагедії і лиха – це природні фактори, і вони мають і глобальний характер, і антропогенні фактори», – каже він.

Розмови про вплив вирубування лісів не є голослівними, стверджують науковці. І не йдеться про те, на першому місці вони в ланцюжку причин стихійного лиха чи на «енному», головне – вони впливають на екологію Карпат.

Завідувач кафедри геотехногенної безпеки та геоінформатики Івано-Франківського національного технічного університету нафти і газу, доктор наук, професор Едуард Кузьменко, опираючись на дослідження ужгородських колег, наводить такі дані: в першу добу дощів ліс може затримувати від 50 до 80 відсотків вологи, він не дає воді зійти одразу, різко, катастрофічно.

Вчений, який займається вивченням зсувних процесів і розробив комп'ютерну програму прогнозування зсувів, акцентує саме на цій проблемі: «Звичайно, будуть повені, після цього будуть і зсуви. Немає зсувів в лісі, історія такого не знає. Може захопити край лісу зсув, це може бути. А в самому лісі ні, коренева система все це тримає. А якщо схили лишаються вирубаними, то там розвиватиметься все, що завгодно. А ці потоки ще збирають і глину – утворюються селеві потоки».

Таку стримувальну функцію ліс може виконувати при звичних для Карпат, та не затяжних дощах. Цього разу за три дні випала двомісячна норма опадів.

Та ще й на таку велику кількість річок – 8 тисяч 300, що протікають Прикарпаттям. На цьому особливо наголошує директор Українського науково-дослідного інституту гірського лісівництва, доктор біологічних наук, академік Лісівничої академії України Василь Парпан.

«Ці опади такого великого об'ємного масштабу ліс не міг зрегулювати. Нормальна кількість опадів – це 145 міліметрів на нашому гідростаціонарі, а випало 317 міліметрів опадів», – каже він.

Науковець визнає, що негативні чинники господарювання в лісі є: це суцільні рубки (одразу уточнює, що вони не перевищують 1 відсотка), технологія лісозаготівель (трелювання тракторами). Та він не погоджується зі звинуваченнями, що надто багато рубають.

А керівник Івано-Франківського обласного управління лісового господарства Олексій Голубчик каже, що якраз навпаки: «Зробити аналіз вирубки лісу на Прикарпатті за останні сто років – тепер ми рубаємо найменше за всі роки».

На захист лісівників стає і голова обласної держадміністрації Микола Палійчук. Як господарник він стверджує: деревини не стає менше. В області 2 мільйони кубічних метрів приросту деревини, вирубується ж 800 тисяч – 40 відсотків приросту. А розмови навколо вирубування лісів він вважає спробою «пошуків стрілочника».

«Скажіть мені, вчені, як у нас Дністер піднявся – він не має нічого спільного до того, що діється в лісі. Знаєте, це починають працювати технології когось звинувачувати: хтось не так господарює. Є проблеми господарювання. Не проблеми, скільки ми рубаємо, проблеми, як ми рубаємо, що лишається в лісі», – каже обласний керівник.

Професор Василь Парпан переконаний, що необхідна стратегічна зміна технології рубок, а ще – екосистемний підхід до ведення лісового господарства в гірських районах.

Справа не в тому, зазначає професор Едуард Кузьменко, щоб не рубати ліс чи не видобувати гравій. Важливо це робити з розумом і з думкою про перспективу.

Новоприбулим – успішний початок

Уряд Канади вірить в іммі рацію. Ми хочемо, щоб більше новоприбулих приєднувалось до нас і ставало важливою частиною майбутнього Канади. Тому ми вдосконалюємо нашу імміграційну систему наступними шляхами:

1. Створення більш гнучкої, справедливої і чутливої імміграційної системи

Зміни у канадських імміграційних законах сприятимуть залученню найбільш потрібних Канаді кваліфікованих працівників та швидшому об'єднанню сімей.

2. Сприяння особам, які отримали освіту за границею

У 2007 році було створено Відділ розгляду іноземних документів – щоб допомагати новоприбулим отримувати необхідну їм інформацію для оцінки та визнання їх кваліфікаційних документів у Канаді.

3. Збільшення фінансування послуг для новоприбулих

Уряд Канади виділив додаткові 1,4 мільярди доларів* на послуги для новоприбулих, у тому числі на навчання мови та послуги з пошуку роботи і працевлаштування, щоб допомогти новоприбулим успішно влаштуватися у Канаді.

4. Зменшення плати за право на постійне проживання

Федеральний уряд зменшив плату за право на постійне проживання з $975 до $490.

* Не включає Квебек.
Договір Канада-Квебек дає провінції Квебек виключну відповідальність за подання послуг по оселенню да підтримці всім, хто іммігрує до Квебеку, в обмін на фінансову компенсацію від уряду Канади (198,2 мільйонів доларів за 2007-08 фінансовий рік).

Детальніша інформація на сайті **www.cic.gc.ca** або за номером **1 800 O-Canada (1-800-622-6232)**, телетайп (TTY): 1-800-926-9105.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada Citoyenneté et Immigration Canada

Canada

42 dead in Ukraine, Romania floods

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prevents water from rushing down the Carpathian Mountains in the event of heavy rains.

The Verkhovna Rada on July 31 altered the 2008 budget to approve $1.2 billion in aid to the western regions.

After a six-hour debate, deputies combined elements of three proposals, including documents submitted by Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and by President Viktor Yushchenko, to add 5.8 billion hryvnias to the budget, about 2.5 percent of the budget approved in February.

Most of the funds came from higher than expected revenues from value-added-tax receipts and import duties.

More than $200 million was channeled to a fund to buy grain direct from farmers to avoid falls in local prices. The floods had little effect on what is likely to be a bumper grain crop of 43 million tons against 29 million last year.

Deputies also endorsed a decree issued by Yushchenko declaring six regions "emergency ecological zones".

Yushchenko has declared a three-month state of emergency in the region, and the scale of destruction forced the Government of Ukraine to turn to the international community for help. On July 30 a disaster relief fund was established, and the Embassy of Ukraine in Canada turned to Ukrainian Canadians with a request to assist in distributing information about the disaster and to help with relief.

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress, the Ukrainian World Congress and Ukrainian Canadian Social Services have joined the Embassy in appealing for funds.

Monetary donations can be sent to Ukrainian Canadian Social Services, Inc., National Headquarters, 2445 Bloor St. W., Toronto, ON M6S 1P7. Cheques should be made out to the "Pomich Ukraini Fund".

The Edmonton office of Ukrainian Canadian Social Services, located at 11717 – 97 Street, Edmonton, AB, T5G 1Y3 (tel: 780-471-4477) is also accepting donations.

In the United States, donations are accepted by the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, 1206 Cottman Ave., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19111.

The Catholic Near East Welfare Association of Canada has also launched an emergency appeal to aid families in western Ukraine.

CNEWA's partner in Ukraine, Caritas Ukraine, has surveyed the affected areas and has opened relief centres. Caritas reports an urgent need for drinking water, powdered milk, baby food, blankets, canned food, soap, detergents and medicine.

PHOTO — WEBSITE OF YULIA TYMOSHENKO

Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko talks with flood victims in Ivano-Frankivsk.

"I invite the people of Canada, especially my fellow Ukrainian Canadians, to support CNEWA Canada's efforts in providing humanitarian assistance to flood victims who live in the poorest region of Ukraine," said the Most Rev. Lawrence Huculak, O.S.B.M., Ukrainian Greek Catholic Metropolitan of Winnipeg and a member of CNEWA Canada's Board of Directors.

Contributions, which are tax-deductible, can be sent through its web site – www.cnewacanada.ca – by phone 1-866-322-4441 or by mail. Make cheques out to CNEWA Canada, mark with "Ukrainian Relief Fund" and send to 1247 Kilborn Place, Ottawa, Ontario K1H 6K9.

CNEWA is an agency of the Holy See, working for more than 80 years in supporting the churches and peoples of the Middle East, Eastern Europe, India and Northeast Africa. It was initially founded to help victims of the 1921-22 famine in the Soviet Union, the worst hit country of which was Ukraine.

Unlike the 1932-33 Holodomor, the 1921-22 famine was acknowledged by the Soviet government and foreign aid was accepted, but most of it was channeled by authorities i to the affected Russian regions — not Ukraine.

Metropolitan Lawrence told Ukrainian News CNEWA will help raise awareness of this disaster outside the Ukrainian community and raise funds from outside the community.

He said he first became aware of this disaster when he saw a report on Radio-Canada, the French-language service of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, showing President Viktor Yushchenko wading through the floodwaters.

The floods in Ukraine and Romania have been virtually ignored by the English-language mainstream media in Canada.

The floods began July 27, following four days of storms.

The centre of the flood destruction was traced by the 1,400-km-long Dnister River, which breached its banks in a number of areas, flooding nearby villages, officials said.

Rainfall in the upper Carpathian Mountain region in west Ukraine broke existing records, officials at Ukraine's national weather service said.

Early estimates by civil defence authorities placed the number of damaged bridges in flood-struck regions across Ukraine in the hundreds, and distance of damaged road in excess of 2,000 kilometres.

More than 7,000 people along the Dnister River alone were evacuated on the first day, and crisis management crews on July 27 spoke of further evacuations planned.

Over 700 persons had to leave their homes by emergency boat, helicopter, or all-terrain vehicle to avoid the rising waters, according to the Interfax-Ukraine news agency.

Many villagers initially refused to leave their homes when informed by officials of the rising danger, Channel 5 television reported.

Officials from Ukraine's Ministry of Emergency Situations warned of potentially critical damage to a pair of mid-Dnister hydro-power dams which, if not brought under control, could fail and flood hundreds more villages.

Yushchenko speaking to reporters in the Ivano-Frankivsk province said "these dams will hold...we are watching this matter closely."

Rising water levels at or near historical records also were reported on the Tisza and Prut Rivers. Rivers were at some locations flowing at as much as 10 metres above normal levels, officials said.

Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko travelled separately July 27 to the hardest flood-hit areas on a tour of inspection.

The president cancelled participation in gala festivities and memorial ceremonies marking the 1,020th anniversary of the founding of Christianity in the region, according to a Yushchenko office statement.

"We have to help one another, we cannot leave any one alone," Yushchenko told reporters in Kyiv prior to departure. "Together we can solve all problems...but the government reaction must be immediate."

Floodwaters began to recede on July 30.

PHOTO — WEBSITE OF THE PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE

Ivano-Frankivsk residents row by flooded homes.

Caron Canada's new Ambassador to Ukraine

(UkrNews)— David Emerson, Minister of Foreign Affairs, on July 25 announced a number of diplomatic appointments under which G. Daniel Caron becomes the new Ambassador to Ukraine.

Caron has been deputy head of mission and minister-counsellor at the Embassy of Canada in Mexico since August 2005.

He has occupied several senior positions within the Government of Canada over the past 27 years. He was director of the Japan Division at the Department of External Affairs and International Trade in Ottawa and counsellor at the Mission of Canada to the European Union in Brussels.

Prior to this, Caron served as deputy director, Northern Europe Division and completed an assignment as regional director with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

In the 1990s, Caron served as a trade commissioner with the Japan Division and, during the 1980s, consul and trade commissioner at the Consulate General of Canada in Boston. He was part of the Canadian team that negotiated with France concerning fishing rights around Saint-Pierre and Miquelon.

In 1978, Caron represented Canada in Ouagadougou at an international youth conference hosted by La Francophonie's Agence de Coopération Culturelle et Technique.

He and his wife Maria Aparicio have two children, Jean-Xavier and Marie-Lou.

Caron succeeds Abina Dann.

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СБУ оприлюднює списки осіб, причетних до організації Голодомору і репресій

(Радіо Свобода)—Служба безпеки України оприлюднює складений за її архівними матеріалами перший список партійних і радянських діячів, керівників каральних органів – Об'єднаного державного політичного управління (ОДПУ) при РНК СРСР та Державного політичного управління (ДПУ) УСРР періоду 1932-1933 років, а також документи, що були підписані ними особисто та стали організаційно-правовою підставою для скоєння в Україні Голодомору-Геноциду і проведення масових репресій.

Архівні документи беззаперечно свідчать, що Голодомор-Геноцид 1932-1933 років став наслідком спланованих злочинних дій тоталітарного комуністичного режиму. Щоб зробити достовірну архівну інформацію щодо організаторів і виконавців Голодомору-Геноциду, а також стосовно підписаних ними документів, доступною для широких кіл громадськості, Службою безпеки пропонується інтерактивна форма.

Як зазначає прес-служба Служби безпеки України, відвідувачі сайту СБУ мають змогу не лише ознайомитись з поіменним списком відповідальних посадовців того часу, але й знайти пов'язані з діяльністю цих осіб розпорядження, протоколи засідань політбюро ЦК ВКП(б), таємні вказівки партактиву, роз'яснення щодо застосування т.зв. Закону про п'ять колосків, директиви про арешти на селі, довідки репресивних органів тощо.

Систематизовані в інтерактивній таблиці документи наочно доводять, як під час Голодомору-Геноциду 1932-1933 років на виконання вказівки політбюро ЦК ВКП(б) (Й. Сталін, В. Молотов, Л. Каганович, К. Ворошилов та ін.) керівництво каральних органів (ОДПУ СРСР та ДПУ УСРР) видавало оперативні накази та інші нормативні документи щодо проведення масових репресивних операцій проти «куркулів», «саботажників», «мішочників-спекулянтів» та інших «контрреволюційних елементів» з метою упокорення українського села і провокування голоду, який призвів до мільйонних жертв серед українського народу.

Прес-служба СБУ наголошує, що така публікація – це початок нового архівно-документального проекту, і Служба безпеки України закликає Український інститут національної пам'яті, Державний комітет архівів, правознавців, фахівців галузевих архівів правоохоронних органів, вчених-дослідників голодоморів, представників неурядових організацій долучитися до роботи над документальною базою для оцінки дій організаторів та винуватців Голодомору-Геноциду в Україні, засудження винних в організації та скоєнні злочинів в Україні.

Служба безпеки України розкрила для української громадськості та світової спільноти усі наявні в неї архівні матеріали з цієї тематики. Вперше СБУ оприлюднила наведені у таблиці документи у 2006 році, під час презентації електронної версії та оригіналів архівних документів ДПУ УСРР, що висвітлюють Голодомор 1932-1933 років в Україні. Ці матеріали також включені до науково-документального видання «Розсекречена пам'ять. Голодомор 1932-1933 років в Україні в документах ГПУ-НКВД», яке побачило світ в 2007 році, й електронна версія якого розміщена на сайті СБУ.

Російський флот проігнорував заборону українського уряду

Володимир Притула, *Радіо Свобода*

Командування Чорноморського флоту Росії проігнорувало заборону українського уряду на стрільбу з вогнепальної зброї. 27 червня під час параду у Севастополі на честь Дня Військово-морського Флоту Росії російські військові стріляли холостими патронами і снарядами, хоча українська сторона з мотивів безпеки місцевого населення наполягала на звуковій імітації.

Іще за кілька тижнів до проведення параду Міністерство закордонних справ України попередило російську сторону про урядову заборону на прольоти військової авіації над населеним пунктом, на будь-які пуски ракет та на використання будь-яких набоїв, у тому числі холостих, для стрільби вогнепальною зброєю за межами військових частин і полігонів.

Незадовго до свята на спеціальній нараді перший заступник голови міської державної адміністрації Володимир Казарін іще раз наголосив, що російські військові мають обмежитися лише звуковою імітацією пострілів.

Він пригадав недавній випадок у Парижі, коли під час показового виступу спецназівців двоє бійців замість холостих випадково стріляли бойовими патронами і поранили глядачів.

Крім того, кілька років тому під час такого ж параду після старту ракети з російського військового катера її фрагменти впали на глядачів і поранили двох людей. Один із потерпілих отримав важкі травми і залишився інвалідом.

Однак уже репетиція параду, проведена 23 липня, показала, що росіяни не збираються виконувати розпорядження Кабінету міністрів України.

В інтерв'ю журналістам голова Севастопольської міськдержадміністрації Сергій Куніцин заявив, що і в день свята, і напередодні він нагадав командуванню російського флоту про те, що стрільби під час параду заборонені.

За його словами, він попередив командувача Чорноморського флоту Росії про невиконання в повному обсязі урядового рішення.

Водночас віце-адмірал Олександр Клецков заявив, що Україна не встановлювала якихось обмежень на стрільби, а Чорноморський флот Росії рішення українського уряду виконав повністю.

Як відзначили місцеві експерти, під час цьогорічного святкового параду стрілянини було як ніколи багато. Робили залпи корабельні артилерійські установки, стріляли великокаліберні кулемети на бронетехніці, не шкодували патронів і для стрільби з автоматичної стрілецької зброї морські піхотинці.

Севастопольський військовий експерт, капітан 1 рангу запасу Мирослав Мамчак сказав Радіо Свобода, що російське військове командування вкотре показало, «хто в місті господар».

Але, на його думку, цього разу російська сторона «демонстративно принизила» Прем'єр-міністра Юлію Тимошенко, уряд якої і намагався обмежити використання Чорноморським флотом Росії зброї.

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Yushchenko asks Patriarch's blessing for independent Ukrainian Church

(RFERL/RISU/UkrNews)—Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko asked the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople to bless the creation of a Ukrainian Church independent of Russia, July 26, reported Ukrainian and Western News agencies.

An independent Orthodox Church was formed in Ukraine after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, but it remains unrecognized by the worldwide Orthodox Church. The Ukrainian branch of the Russian Orthodox Church remains its sole representative.

Yushchenko told Bartholomew I in front of thousands of people outside the St. Sofia cathedral that he was "confident" that an "autonomous national Church" will see the light in Ukraine as a "historical truth."

"I believe that a national self-governing church will emerge in Ukraine, and I ask your holiness for your blessing for our dreams, for truth, for hope, for our country," Yushchenko said.

The president reminded the audience of the history of Christianity in the Ukrainian land and its role in the development of the state, education, and culture.

"The fate of the Kyivan Metropolitanate resembles the whole of our fate. Its prosperity in Kyiv, its way to Halych, its return to the capital with the Cossack freedom, its preaching has not faded away in time. It was transformed into the genetic desire of the people to be free and to have their own state and Church," said Yushchenko.

"I believe that with wisdom and patience we will fulfill the dream. I trust that any divisions of the Ukrainian believers are not lasting. I trust that the national local Church will be established in Ukraine as God's gift, as the historic truth and justice," he added

The Ukrainian president has long called for a single, independent, and fully recognized Ukrainian Church as a key part of forming the country's national identity.

But Bartholomew I, the Istanbul-based spiritual leader of the world's 225 million Orthodox Christians, said the unity of the Church was more important than politics.

He said that working to "protect and restore the unity of our Church represents a duty that transcends any political or religious objective."

In comments on his arrival, Aleksy II, patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, called on Russians and Ukrainians to "maintain unity among the brotherly Slavic peoples."

Russian clerics dismiss the independent Ukrainian church as "schismatic," and Russian authorities have accused Ukrainian leaders of interfering in Church affairs.

The Orthodox Church gives national churches vast autonomy and the patriarch of Constantinople has little beyond moral authority to impose solutions on them.

Orthodox leaders in Kyiv marked 1,020 years of Orthodox Christianity.

The patriarchs of Constantinople and Moscow participated on July 27 in a joint liturgy at Kyiv's monument to St. Vladimir.

Volodymyr the Great, the leader of the Kyivan Rus, in 988 chose to make Byzantine Christianity the religion of the land. The Byzantine and Latin Churches formally split into the Greek Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches in 1054.

Five dead in separate Ukraine helicopter crashes

Five people died in helicopter crashes in Ukraine, reported dpa citing the Interfax news agency reported Aug. 3. The first accident took place as an Mi-2 helicopter was flying between two villages in the southern Crimea province in good weather.

The victims were the pilot aged 55 and a flight engineer aged 69, according to Ukraine's Ministry of Emergency Situations (UMES). The helicopter hit a farm field. Nobody was injured.

The second crash came after a helicopter went down in Ukraine's the mountainous western Ivano-Frankivsk province, killing all three persons on board.

Details of the second downed helicopter were sketchy, with UMES officials describing the chopper as being of German, but otherwise unknown, manufacture. The cause of the crash was not reported.

Aircraft activity in the Ivano-Frankivsk province had been intense over the previous week as Ukraine's government has struggled to deal with damage cause by the region's worst floods in a generation.

The Mi-2 in the Crimea crash is a light helicopter manufactured in Poland from 1965 - 1985. The aircraft is operated throughout the former Soviet bloc and though aging generally enjoys a reputation for reliability.

The Simferopol-headquartered company Kiparis, one of the Crimea region's leading conglomerates, had been operating the Mi-2.

Ministry of Transport officials were investigating both incidents.

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Parliament gives OK to budget amendments

(Ukrainian Journal)—Parliament voted overwhelmingly on July 31 to support President Viktor Yushchenko's amendments to the 2008 budget in a bill that also incorporates amendments submitted by the government and by opposition groups.

The bill, which effectively unlocks aid financing to those regions that have been affected by storms and floods over the previous five days, was approved by 441 lawmakers in the 450-seat Parliament.

But in an apparent setback for Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, lawmakers rejected two important positions that had been originally pushed for by her government.

In particular, the lawmakers rejected the 24 billion hryvnias in state guarantees to Ukravtodor, the state-owned road construction company, which would have allowed the company to borrow money heavily for repairs.

Also, the lawmakers made sure that local governments decide on how to spend the relief money, not the central government, as Tymoshenko had been originally seeking.

"Thank you sincerely for today," Yushchenko said in an address to lawmakers immediately after the budget bill had been approved. "The approved legislation on allocating the relief aid to western regions hit by the floods is a great example of possible joint cooperative work."

The vote has been widely seen as a competition between Yushchenko and Tymoshenko in their ability to summon up political support in Parliament as the two are seen as major competitors at the next presidential election.

Yushchenko and Tymoshenko are thought to have been holding secret talks with opposition lawmakers to support their bills. The final bill represented consensus among the groups although some of Tymoshenko's key initiatives had been rejected.

"It is a difficult vote with difficult talks, but it was successful," Parliamentary Speaker Arseniy Yatseniuk said after the vote. "I hope that conditions have been created for the bill to be signed [by the president]."

Shortly after the vote Tymoshenko also praised the bill as "the victory of Parliament and the government."

"Perhaps, for the first time over the past months political groups managed to unite for the sake of helping the people and to solve a number of problems in the country," Tymoshenko said.

But hours later, appearing on Channel 5 late July 31, Tymoshenko attacked her political opponents for rejecting some of the government's initiatives.

"They try with all their efforts to keep the government restrained [hoping] that the government will not produce a positive result," Tymoshenko said. "They keep it restrained to prevent it from working at full capacity, God forbid."

She also suggested that government will try to push through the initiatives and new amendments to the budget in September, when Parliament resumes work after summer recess.

"Step by step, we will be pushing through the amendments to give the people money and a sense that the new government represents the new policy of Ukraine," Tymoshenko said.

Tymoshenko specifically praised Our Ukraine-People's Self-defense and the Communist Party, a pro-Russian opposition group, for supporting the amendments on July 31.

The comment further confirms reports that Tymoshenko has been holding secret talks with the Communist Party and will perhaps count heavily on the group in seeking to approve future legislation.

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Tymoshenko rewards Communists

(Ukrainian Journal)—Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko on July 24 appointed two Communist Party loyalists to senior posts in the government, less than two weeks after the pro-Russian party had refused to support a no-confidence vote.

Vasyl Marmazov was appointed to the post of the deputy internal affairs minister, while Mykola Tymoshenko was appointed to the post of the head of the State Committee on Forestry, the government announced.

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Publisher:
Edmonton Lasergraphics,
A Division of Canadian Cryptics Ltd.
President: Marco Levytsky

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Advertising, Subscription: Irena Hladki

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We acknowledge the financial assistance of the Government of Canada, through the Publications Assistance Program (PAP), toward our mailing costs. PAP# 08935

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Українські Вісті це незалежна газета, яка сама утримується із передплат, оголошень та пожертв на пресовий фонд. Просимо підтримувати нашу газету повищими джерелами. Дякуємо заздалегідь за Вашу підтримку.

Mainstream English-language media couldn't care less about Ukrainians

If you rely upon the mainstream English-language media in Canada for your news about events around the world, you would not be aware of the fact that massive floods in western Ukraine killed 38 people, plus another four in Romania.

In addition close to 20,000 residents had fled their homes, 40,000 homes and 33,000 hectares of arable land have been flooded, 185 towns and villages left without power, 360 overpasses, 561 pedestrian bridges and 680 km of highways have been severely damaged or destroyed. According to preliminary estimates, the damages amount to at least 7 billion hryvnias, or more than $1.5 billion.

The regions most affected by this catastrophe were Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, Zakarpattya, Ternopil, Chernivtsi and Vinnytsia.

The flooding has been described as the worst in a century, with the Prut and Dnister rivers rising to dangerous levels.

Yet somehow, our mainstream media missed the boat on this one.

In Edmonton — the metropolitan area with the greatest Ukrainian Canadian population in Canada, there was no mention of this disaster in any of the mainstream media. We checked websites for other English-language media outlets and were able to locate a very brief "breaking news" item from July 27 on the website of the Winnipeg Free Press which noted that 13 people had died as of that point. A website "breaking news" item would indicate that the story made the electronic version of the newspaper — but not the print edition. A search also located some stories on the Canoe website of the Sun chain, but no links to any of the actual newspapers. Ukrainian Catholic Metropolitan Lawrence Huculak, who lives in Winnipeg — the municipality with the largest Ukrainian Canadian population — found out about these floods from Radio-Canada, the French-language network of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. So where was the English-language media?

By this point we have become quite accustomed to the indifference and even outright bias that the mainstream media display towards the Ukrainian community. Take the commemoration of the Holodomor, for example. The Edmonton Journal ignored the rally held at the Legislature for the Holodomor Flame, despite the fact that 750 people, among them, the Premier and several MLAs attended it. At least they did cover the flame's first appearance in Edmonton, when Holodomor survivor Stefan Horlatsch visited local schools, which is more than the Calgary Herald or the Toronto media devoted to this event — namely zilch. Even Winnipeg's coverage was rather paltry. But let some octogenarian Ukrainian be falsely accused of being an "alleged Nazi war criminal" and the media go into a feeding frenzy.

There are political considerations which play a factor in the abovementioned items. But what are the political factors in a natural disaster? Contrast the deafening silence on the floods in Ukraine and Romania with a combined death toll of 42 with the inundation of reports on the U.S, Midwest floods in June (total death toll 15). We do not intend to purposely play a numbers game with death tolls, but do want to point out that surely this event deserved some coverage instead of being completely ignored.

But what the total indifference to this great tragedy in Ukraine demonstrates is that, as far as the gatekeepers of Canada's mainstream media are concerned, people in some parts of the world (the more affluent ones) matter a lot more to them than people in other parts of the world (the less affluent ones).

And what the English-language media moguls in Canada have demonstrated to our community in this particular case is that, as far as Ukrainians are concerned — they couldn't care less.

Former ally claims Yushchenko's poisoning claims a myth

By Pavel Korduban

(Jamestown Foundation) — Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko has made it clear that he holds Davyd Zhvania, the sponsor of the populist People's Self-Defense bloc (NS), responsible for his mysterious poisoning at the height of the presidential election race in 2004 — Zhvania denies this. Zhvania also insists that Yushchenko's was a case of ordinary food poisoning, and that his poisoning with dioxin was nothing more than a myth created in order to help Yushchenko win the election.

The next presidential race, expected in 2009, is probably at stake now. Yushchenko's team suspects NS and personally Zhvania — a businessman of Georgian descent, Yushchenko's former close ally, and the godfather of his son — of supporting Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's presidential ambitions. NS is part of Yushchenko's Our Ukraine People's Self-Defense bloc (NUNS), but the presidential secretariat suspects that it is loyal to Tymoshenko, who may run for president against Yushchenko. Zhvania's claims that Yushchenko's dioxin poisoning was a fabrication cast a shadow over Yushchenko's integrity, potentially spoiling his chances of re-election.

Zhvania's troubles began this past May, when the Prosecutor-General's Office (PGO) opened a criminal case suspecting that he illegally obtained Ukrainian citizenship. In return, Zhvania claimed that Yushchenko's wife had illegally kept her U.S. citizenship, and that the criminal case against him was in revenge for his disobeying Yushchenko's orders regarding the recent mayoral election in Kyiv. Yushchenko's team denied Zhvania's allegations.

Speaking in an interview on May 30, Zhvania sensationally claimed that Yushchenko was not poisoned with dioxin in 2004. He said Yushchenko suffered from an attack of pancreatitis caused by ordinary food poisoning, and that his face was subsequently disfigured not by dioxin but by an inflammation not related to the poisoning. Yushchenko's team, he said, decided to sell it to the public as deliberate poisoning.

Asked why he did not reveal this earlier, Zhvania said that he did not want the spirit of the pro-Yushchenko Orange Revolution in November-December 2004 to be curbed. Zhvania said that the tests which showed the presence of dioxin in Yushchenko's body were fake. An international group of doctors who treated Yushchenko after 2004 denied this allegation. They said that 90 percent of the dioxin has been removed from his body since then.

Zhvania also denied the widespread belief that Yushchenko was poisoned at a dinner with the then head of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), Ihor Smeshko, and his deputy Volodymyr Satsyuk on Sept. 5, 2004. "It was a beautiful myth for a post-Soviet country. Look how it sounds: former KGB people wanted to kill a democratic president," Zhvania told the Ukrainian edition of a popular Russian daily. Zhvania did not deny that he organized that dinner as the then deputy head of Yushchenko's election HQ. He said that Yushchenko's security as a presidential candidate was discussed there.

Yushchenko, speaking in an interview with an Austrian daily, insisted that he was poisoned at the dinner. He said that three individuals were involved who later fled to Russia and obtained Russian citizenship. The PGO indirectly confirmed that Satsyuk was one of the three, reporting shortly after Yushchenko's interview that Russia refused to extradite him. However, officially Ukraine wants Satsyuk extradited on charges unrelated to the poisoning.

Zhvania was for the first time openly accused of involvement in Yushchenko's poisoning on July 23, when Yushchenko's legal advisor Ihor Pukshyn claimed that "Zhvania, directly or indirectly, 'helped' Yushchenko eat poison". Speaking at a press conference the following day, Yushchenko, asked whether Zhvania had been involved in his poisoning, said "I think yes" and added, "to put it mildly". Yushchenko later explained why he suspected Zhvania, saying that Zhvania insisted on the meeting with the SBU heads in September 2004, which Yushchenko had not planned to attend, and that Zhvania was the only member of his staff who was against flying him to Austria for treatment. Yushchenko was flown to a private clinic in Austria several days after the dinner, when his condition worsened.

Zhvania threatened to sue both Pukshyn and Yushchenko for the accusations against him. He also threatened Yushchenko with impeachment. Zhvania may find supporters for an impeachment motion outside his NS. Pukshyn accused Tymoshenko of supporting Zhvania and using his allegations in her rivalry with Yushchenko. "As she has never concealed her presidential ambitions, it is very convenient for her to cast a shadow over Yushchenko," he said. Viktor Baloha, the chief of Yushchenko's secretariat, also issued a statement accusing Tymoshenko of supporting Zhvania. He claimed that she was conspiring against Yushchenko in order to split NUNS and forge a new coalition in parliament with his rivals.

Covert warfare in Crimea

By Roman Kupchinsky

(Jamestown Foundation)—On the evening of July 24, Russian State Duma member Konstantin Zatulin was banned from entering Ukraine for one year when he arrived in Simferopol airport in the Crimea with a group of Russian parliamentarians to take part in the commemoration of the 1,020th anniversary of the conversion to Christianity of Kyivan-Rus. The Ukrainian Security Service, the SBU, announced that it initiated a criminal case against him for "attempting to destabilize public order".

Zatulin, the head of the Duma's commission on CIS affairs, has been in the forefront of demanding that Crimea be returned to Russia.

The Zatulin affair occurred the same day that Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko once again brought up the need to immediately begin talks between Russia and Ukraine on the removal of the Russian Black Sea fleet from Sevastopol in 2017.

"The start of negotiations on the removal of Russia's Black Sea fleet from Ukrainian territory should be included in the agenda of our relations," he said in a press conference. Russia should consider the 20-year lease allowing its fleet to be based in the port of Sevastopol "a unique gesture of goodwill by the Ukrainian nation," Yushchenko said according to ITAR-TASS on July 24. "I am convinced we must do everything possible beforehand. And beforehand is not to say prematurely." Yushchenko's timing could be seen as a warning to Moscow that talks should not be influenced by public pressure from such proponents of breaking Crimea away from Ukraine as Zatulin and Moscow mayor Yuriy Luzhkov, and that their agitation will not be tolerated.

Earlier, on July 2, Moscow's politically well connected mayor, Yuriy Luzhkov, announced that the municipality would send $34 million from its own budget to the Crimea in order to "promote the teaching of the Russian language" and to support the "Diaspora abroad" in 2009-2011, Kommersant online reported. Earlier, Luzhkov urged the Russian State Duma not to prolong the Russian-Ukrainian treaty of peace and cooperation which is due to expire at the end of 2008.

Speaking at a press conference in Moscow, the flamboyant mayor, whose wife, Yelena Baturina, is widely regarded as one of the wealthiest women in Russia and is reputed to be a major real estate investor in the Crimea, announced his latest crusade — to save ethnic Russian Ukrainian citizens in Crimea from the terrible fate of learning the language of the country they live in.

Luzhkov, who is currently banned from entering Ukraine as a result of his unceasing efforts to reclaim the peninsula for Russia from Ukraine, offered a breakdown of how this money would be spent.

The mayor's office told Kommersant that 180 million rubles ($7.65 million) will go toward "direct support for the united Russian Diaspora abroad," 65.2 million rubles ($2.76 million) will be allocated for "information cooperation" with this Diaspora and 335.5 million rubles ($14.2 million) is slated to support the Russian language, culture and education.

Where the other $11 million will go was not revealed.

Luzhkov's statement was supported by Sergey Tsekov, the head of the "Russian Community of the Crimea," who told the media that "Russophobia…is the essence of Ukrainian policy."

The vague descriptions of how this money would be spent lends itself to various interpretations; direct support for Russians abroad could well mean financing various separatist groups who could arguably engage

Yushchenko switches support from NUNS to United Centre

By Taras Kuzio

(Jamestown Foundation)—On July 12 Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko's fourth party of power, United Centre held its inaugural congress in pompous style at the Ukrayina Palace, broadcast live on state television Channel 1. Although presidential secretariat head Viktor Baloga was touted by the Ukrainian media as the most likely candidate, because of the use of administrative resources in the party's construction, Ihor Kryl was re-elected as leader.

United Centre's inability to find a charismatic and well known leader is endemic to the party's crisis from its inception. The merger of United Centre with the People's Democratic Party (NDP) failed to materialize prior to the congress. United Centre was established on March 27 after five deputies resigned from Our Ukraine-People's Self Defense (NU-NS) but opted to remain in the orange coalition. At a maximum United Centre may grow to number 15 out of the 72 NU-NS deputies, still far short of the necessary majority of 37 required to vote for NU-NS's withdrawal from the coalition.

United Centre supports a grand coalition of NU-NS and the Party of Regions. United Centre is a "constructive alternative," Baloga said, a codeword for pragmatists in Regions and NU-NS to unite. "We are of one mind with the president, our aims are the same".

The new party of power is being established administratively through regional governors, with three joining. In Dnipropetrovsk a large proportion of the governor's office have joined.

United Centre is being established "from above, using the advantages of administrative offices, reminiscent of Kuchma-era methods," Zerkalo Nedeli bemoaned. Officials employed in regional governments refusing to join United Centre have been released from employment. In half of Ukraine's 27 regions, United Centre is headed by the governor or his deputies.

United Centre has two major pitfalls. First, under constitutional reforms supported by parliament's two largest factions, Regions and the Yulia Tymoshenko bloc, governors would be placed under government control, leaving the president with few "administrative resources." The NDP halted unification talks with United Centre after NP leader Ludmilla Suprun was not offered the post of Zaporizhzhia governor.

United Centre is being established "from above, using the advantages of administrative offices, reminiscent of Kuchma-era methods," Zerkalo Nedeli bemoaned.

Second, United Centre's choice of allies is marginal. The NDP, Democratic Party and the Republican Christian Party stood in the 2007 elections in the Ludmilla Suprun-Ukrainian Regional Active bloc that obtained 0.34 percent (10th place). Two other marginal allies are the Agrarians and the Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (PPPE). An alliance with these five marginal parties would not boost United Centre's popularity.

These five allies are former pro-Kuchma centrist parties, and four supported Viktor Yanukovych in the 2004 elections. The PPPE supported Yushchenko in the second round of the 2004 elections but the defection of its members from Our Ukraine to the Anti-Crisis coalition in March 2007 spurred the president's April 2 decree to disband parliament.

Kyiv Mayor Leonid Chernovetsky — who was backed by Yushchenko in the May 26 pre-term Kyiv elections — is to join United Centre. The Chernovetsky bloc came first in the Kyiv elections with 30 percent while NU-NS failed to reach the 3 percent threshold. Kyiv City Council Secretary Oles Dovhyi remains the link between Chernovetsky and United Centre and could become the head of its Kyiv branch.

There is growing antagonism inside NU-NS at United Centre for poaching its regional members, so pre-term elections would unravel the bloc. United Centre could have potentially gained some support if it had successfully attracted the business wing of NU-NS, which has always been inclined toward a grand coalition and lukewarm toward Tymoshenko. United Centre placed high hopes on attracting parliamentary speaker Arseniy Yatseniuk as its leader, a young and respected business leader loyal to Yushchenko, but he has repeatedly declined the offer.

Other businessmen in NU-NS told EDM that while they remained loyal to Yushchenko, they did not want to participate in a political project promoted by Baloga, who has poor relations with both the majority pro-Tymoshenko and minority pro-Yushchenko wings of NU-NS. NS is financed by Davyd Zhvannia, subject of an investigation to have his Ukrainian citizenship annulled. The investigation is being orchestrated — according to NS leader and Interior Minister Yuriy Lutsenko — by the presidential secretariat.

It is unlikely that Ukraine will have a successful party of power for four reasons. First, Ukraine's regional diversity makes it impossible to have a single party that is pan-national. Second, a party of power requires an over-arching nationalism, as in Russia under Vladimir Putin. United Centre's amorphous ideology of "patriotism, truth and pragmatism" has already failed in Kuchma-era centrist parties. Third, successful parties of power require a popular president who can lead them, as is the case in Russia. Fourth, parties of power succeed in autocratic — not democratic — systems where elites and businessmen can be cajoled into joining them.

Ukraine has attempted to build two parties of power under Kuchma and two under Yushchenko; all four have failed, or probably will.

The NDP was Kuchma's new party of power headed by Prime Minister Valeriy Pustovoitenko in the 1998 elections when, despite administrative resources, the NDP received only 5 percent of the vote. Following the replacement of Pustovoitenko by Yushchenko as prime minister in 1999, the NDP faction began to disintegrate. Suprun opposed "administrative methods" to establish new parties "because we have experienced this already and learnt our lessons".

For a United Ukraine (ZYU) was established for the 2002 elections consisting of five pro-Kuchma centrist parties, but it obtained only 11 percent despite administrative resources. The ZYU disintegrated a month after the elections into constantly fluctuating factions.

In 2005 the People's Union-Our Ukraine was established as Yushchenko's first party of power but it failed to fulfill its main objective of merging disparate national democratic parties within Our Ukraine. Three years later United Centre is the second attempt.

United Centre will likely become Ukraine's fourth failed party of power and will therefore be unable to win Yushchenko a second term.

Covert warfare in Crimea

in terrorist acts against Ukrainian authorities in the Crimea. Luzhkov's "cultural" money could also well be a means of channeling funds for Russian covert intelligence operations in the region.

When the Ukrainian Security Service, the SBU, announced in June that Luzhkov would be denied entrance to Ukraine, the announcement underscored that the mayor of Moscow was suspected of money laundering via the Crimea. No proof of this has yet been offered and Luzhkov has not made any denials.

The possibility that such money could be used to fund a sub-rosa operation is not as remote as it might seem. On July 1, the website of the SBU reported that it had arrested two individuals in the Crimea, members of the unregistered "National Front — Sevastopol-Crimea-Russia" group, and charged them with agitation for dismembering the "territorial integrity of Ukraine."

The "National Front" was created in August 2005 and includes 12 pro-Russian public associations in the Crimea. Last year its activists declared the beginning of a campaign "Ukraine without the Crimea." They stated that the objective of the campaign was to maintain the term "Crimean autonomy" in the wording of the Ukrainian constitution, Ekho Moskvy radio reported on July 1.

But their actions are alleged to be far more radical and the source of their funding remains a mystery. Did it initially come from earlier grants provided by the Moscow city budget or were other, less visible, donors involved?

The SBU press release noted that recently (the dates were not specified) five spies working under diplomatic cover were declared persona non grata and asked to leave Ukraine. The SBU refused to name which countries the spies were from.

More ominously, the SBU stated that 38 Ukrainian citizens were warned that they were targets of recruitment by foreign intelligence services — by which countries services the SBU did not specify. The Russian Foreign Intelligence Service, the SVR, the CIA and the Turkish national intelligence service, the MIT, all come to mind, however the SVR appears to be the most likely culprit.

Moreover, the Crimean branch of the Communist Party of Ukraine (CPU) appears to be extremely well funded. The CPU has been in the forefront of organizing anti-NATO demonstrations in the Crimea

Where is the money coming from to fund the anti-Ukrainian campaign in the Crimea?

Luzhkov's charitable donations are not a recent development. In 2006-2008 Moscow donated 432 million rubles ($18.3 million) toward similar projects in the Crimea, Kommersant wrote on July 1, quoting a spokesman for Luzhkov.

Earlier, in the 1990s, the pro-Russian movement in the Crimea was headed by the so-called Republican Movement of the Crimea, which was regarded by the SBU at the time as nothing more than a front for organized crime on the peninsula. The Republican Movement eventually disappeared and was replaced by more legitimate groups, but their legitimacy — and their funding — is now under suspicion and Yuriy Luzhkov, or his wife, might one day be asked to account for this.

Are these charitable donations being run by Luzhkov alone? Is the mayor of Moscow a rogue elephant, privatizing Russian foreign policy? Is the new Russian president, Dmitry Medvedev, aware of his activities and does he condone them as part of his announced intention to see that the rule of law is supreme in Russia?

Newsbriefs

Oschadbank issues relief

(Ukrainian Journal)—State Oschadbank (Savings Bank) paid UAH 13.8 million in relief aid to the residents of the flood-hit regions in Ukraine's west through Aug. 5, the bank said on Aug. 5. "Oschadbank pays relief aid to those affected by the floods in Vinnytsia, Zakarpattia, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, Ternopil, and Chernivtsi region," reads the press release. "By August 5, 2008, UAH 13,837,500 in aid paid through Oschadbank's outlets was transferred to 9,395 families."

Bailout money to help flood victims

(Ukrainian Journal)—The government is planning to allocate the funds originally allocated by Ukraine's 2008 national budget for refunding defaulted Soviet-era deposits as compensation to the regions hit by the recent severe floods in western Ukraine, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko told reporters in Chernivtsi region on Aug. 4. According to the premier, the decision is to be taken before Parliament's final approval of the amendments to the 2008 national budget.

PETER GOLDRING
Member of Parliament
Edmonton East

C-51 FACTS NOT FICTION

The federal government has introduced Bill C-51, An Act to Amend the Food and Drugs Act, to help modernize the regulation of health products and food. It provides new tools to more quickly and effectively protect Canadians and provides better information to allow Canadians to play a more active role in their own health and safety.

These are worthy goals. Recently however, a number of misconceptions have been raised regarding the impact of Bill C-51 upon the regulation of, and access to, Natural Health Products (NHPs).

Simply put, Bill C-51 is not focussed on NHPs and will not affect the manner in which these products are regulated in Canada. Under Bill C-51 Canadians will continue to have access to NHPs that are safe, effective and of high quality.

A regulatory framework specific to natural health products has been in place since January 1, 2004. The *Natural Health Products Regulations* establish pre-market requirements for the safety, efficacy and quality of the products and require a site licence as evidence of compliance with good manufacturing practices in sites where these products are manufactured, packaged, or labelled.

There is misconception that this Bill will remove the majority of natural health products from the market. The Bill specifically recognizes that different product classes have different standards of evidence. The standards of evidence for NHPs, which allow for a full range of evidence from traditional use to full clinical trials, will remain unchanged.

Bill C-51 is intended to allow for the flexibility of individual product lines (such as NHPs) to continue to be regulated proportional to their risk and accounting for their unique product profiles.

I think Bill C-51 is a step forward that allows you to know the products you buy are safe to use. What do you think?

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Dauphin showcases Ukrainian culture to the world

By Jessica Rawluk, *The Dauphin Herald*

The music could be heard all through the day and night at the Selo Ukraina as the 43rd Annual Canada's National Ukrainian Festival took to the site this past weekend (Aug. 2-4).

"We've had a lot of compliments," said CNUF president David Katcsma.

"People are quite happy with what they are seeing and hearing. The music is great and we had our five full grandstand shows."

"A year's worth of work really paid off," added first vice-president Kristen Lucyshyn. "We had the chance to share our Ukrainian culture with thousands of people from all over the world."

Visitors travelled from all parts of the globe to take in the festivities. They came from as far as Ukraine, Bahamas, the United States and all over Canada.

The weekend sported excellent weather for the festival, even though organizers made the call to hold Saturday afternoon's grandstand show on top of the hill.

"We always make a contingency plan just in case we have problems with the weather. So the plan was, if there was any doubt whatsoever, that we would just move to the festival square stage which we did," he said.

The weather did clear up in time to have Saturday evening's performance on the main sage.

"Our grandstand was almost full," Katcsma said of Saturday night's performances.

Along with the traditional grandstand performances, the festival hosted a number of bands including the Kubasonics, TyT i Tam, Ukrainia, The Ukrainian Oldtimers and Sloohai, a memorial presentation for Peter Bilash, the traditional Ukrainian wedding and a variety of activities throughout the site.

"It seems this year that people really responded well to our entertainment," Lucyshyn said.

Katcsma was impressed with the selection of entertainers for this year's festival.

"We had some super entertainment. I was able to catch some of the show (Saturday) and I was very impressed."

There was plenty to do for the younger attendees as various crafts were made available. Children had the opportunity to make their own Ukrainian headpiece, as well as paint their own Hutzul axe and Dee Dee the Clown was never too far away.

"The last couple of years we've done so much more with children's activities because kids need things to do too," Katcsma said.

He also said the children's activities were a way for the kids to learn about Ukrainian culture.

The Zabavas proved to be popular once again for those wanting to dance the night away.

Ticket sales were about average ranging from 3,000 to 4,000 for the weekend. Katcsma said the kick off party for CNUF really increased sales.

"The idea was to attract the local people and I would say we had 200 to 300 people for sure," he said.

The weekend proved to be a hit with the compliments visitors have been telling every board member as they walked by.

"People had an excellent time. We partied until the wee hours of the morning," Lucyshyn said.

Counterclockwise from Top Right: Winnipeg's Rusalka Dancers; Ukrainian Wedding with Ryan Rauliuk (groom) and Anastasia Fyk (bride); Winnipeg's Todaschuk Sisters; Memorial Service for Peter Bilash.

ALL PHOTOS — THE DAUPHIN HERALD

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VOHON
UKRAINIAN DANCE ENSEMBLE

Ukrainian Pavilion a crowd favourite at Heritage Days

(UkrNews)—The Ukrainian Pavilion on again proved to be one of the crowd favourites at Edmonton's Servus Heritage Festival, held at Hawrelak Park Aug. 2-4.

Ukraine placed third for the Nena Timperley Award for Excellence in Pavilion Management after the Arabs and Israelis, this year.

Approximately 400,000 attended this year's festival, which featured over 60 pavilions representing over 75 cultures from all over the world.

The Ukrainian Pavilion, sponsored by the Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood, Edmonton Eparchy, under a committee chaired by Stan Kobylko, consisted of three components, the Ukrainian Showcase Program on the stage, the food kiosk and the cultural display.

The cultural pavilion served as a virtual information bureau for many people at the Festival, says volunteer Nadia Cyncar.

"People want to know what kind of institutions there are in Edmonton, What is the Ukrainian population. What we have. What kind of schools. So we have to give all kinds of information to those people who visit us. Therefore we carry the glory about being Ukrainian to the whole world. We were visited by people from Ireland, Thailand, Australia, Germany, Portugal, Ukraine and Moscow," she said

A popular feature of this year's cultural display was weaving. There were also displays on the 1932-33 Holodomor and finding your Ukrainian roots (both organized by Ludvyk Marianych, both the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League and the Orthodox Ukrainian Women's Association museums, the Peter and Doris Kule Centre of Ukrainian Folklore, the Alberta Genealogical Project, the Ukrainian Heritage Village and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Alberta Provincial Council.

"It's been just great," volunteer Elizabeth Holinaty said of the public's response to the Ukrainian Pavilion. "And we are very pleased that there are a lot of young people that are involved."

Among this year's showcase performers were: the Promin Dancers from Vegreville; Kvitka Dancers from Red Deer; Sean Holowaty on Dulcimers/Cymbaly; Bandurist Charlie Sakuma; Solo Dancer T. J. Fenton; and the Dynamics, a Ukrainian Band with Stan and the Dymanics.

Chair of the Entertainment Committee was Julian Nahnybida.

Servus Heritage Festival 2008 marks the 33rd annual edition of this premier three-day showcase of Canada's vibrant multicultural heritage.

Counterclockwise from Top Right: Weavers at work; Vegreville's Promin dancers; Ludvyk Marianych helps visitors trace their Ukrainian roots.

ALL PHOTOS — MARCO LEVYTSKY

17 президентів підтримали Україну в ЄС і НАТО

(Українська правда)—17 голів держав Центральної та Східної Європи одноголосно висловилися за прийняття усіх балканських країн та України до ЄС і НАТО.

Як повідомляє 3 серпня "Німецька хвиля", такий результат дводенного саміту країн Центральної та Східної Європи, що пройшов у македонському місті Охрід.

Без цих країн-кандидатів Європейський Союз та НАТО будуть "неповноцінними", зазначається у фінальному документі саміту.

Лідери центрально- та східноєвропейських країн розглянули також питання енергетичного забезпечення у майбутньому і ситуацію з незалежним Косово.

За інформацією "Німецької хвилі", у конференції брали участь, в тому числі, німецький та український президенти - Хорст Келлер та Віктор Ющенко.

Водночас прес-служба українського президента не повідомляла про його участь у цьому заході.

На Яворівському полігоні розірвався ствол мінометa: є загиблий і поранені

(УНІАН)—На Яворівському загальновійськовому полігоні у Львівській області внаслідок розриву ствола міномету один військовослужбовець загинув, ще троє тяжко поранені.

Як повідомили УНІАН в Управлінні прес-службі Міністерства оборони, надзвичайна подія трапилася 6 серпня під час проведення тактичних навчань з 1-ю мінометною батареєю аеромобільного полку, які проходили в рамках табірного збору артилерії 13-го армійського корпусу Сухопутних військ ЗС України.

За даними Міноборони, внаслідок розриву ствола міномету поранення отримали один офіцер, один військовослужбовець служби за контрактом та двоє строковиків.

Під час їх транспортування до Військово-медичного клінічного центру Західного регіону, розташованого у місті Львів, військовослужбовець строкової служби помер.

Для з'ясування причин та обставин надзвичайної події, наказом начальника Генерального штабу – Головнокомандувача Збройних сил України генерала армії України Сергія Кириченка службове розслідування за даним фактом проводить командувач Ракетних військ і артилерії Сухопутних військ ЗС України генерал-майор Володимир Рябоконь.

Керівництво Міністерства оборони та Збройних сил України висловило співчуття рідним та близьким загиблого солдата.

65–річчя І УД УНА і 64–річчя Бродів

П. Саварин

Від коли постало в Едмонтоні Братство 1 УД УНА, в гарячі дні місяця липня, ми майже кожного року збираємося на відзначення річниці створення Дивізії «Галичина» 1943 року, а зокрема, на панахиду, щоб помолитися за тих наших побратимів, які під Бродами, 1944 р., в завзятім бою з найбільшим ворогом України, Москвою, віддали за незалежність України найцінніше, що мали, своє життя. Зібралися ми й цього року, з тою лише різницею, що на початках нас приходило біля сотні, а тепер – як бачите. Час робить своє. Але – якщо ми, їхні побратими, їх не згадаємо і за них не помолимося, то хто?

Це не перший раз з нагоди цих річниць я говорю. Тай не тільки з нагоди цих річниць, бо говорив я і ми часто сходилися теж з нагоди 1–го Листопада, й Свята Державности і Соборности 1918–1919 рр., і УСС–в, і Карпатської України, і УПА. Україні ніколи не бракувало патріотів, які знали, що без боротьби немає волі і ніколи не покидали традиції збройної боротьби за свою незалежність і соборність, зокрема від часів сл.п. Гетьмана Івана Мазепи. Інша справа, що часто нам приходилося боротися й під чужими прапорами, брат проти брата, як це було останньо в Другій світовій війні. Поселені з волі Всевишнього на найкращих землях над Дніпром, на північ від Чорного моря, але між Европою і дикою Азією, а зокрема – роз'єднані й розділені між сильнішими сусідами, інакше й не могло бути.

Та є величезна різниця між нашими відміннями цих і подібних річниць колись, і в останні роки. Цього року, коли ми відмічуємо 65–річчя І УД УНА, 64–річчя бою під Бродами і 70–річчя смерти з рук Москви полковника Євгена Конавальця, на всіх картах світу вже є вільна, незалежна, українська держава, Україна. Мрія мрій цілих поколінь, дослівно мільйонів борців за її свободу, крізь кілька століть. Як в свій час сказав дорадник американських президентів, Збігнєв Бжезінський – «сталося найбільше чудо 20–го століття». А ми його дочекалися, стали свідками його. І це не важно, що дивізійників, як і УПА, наразі на державному рівні в Україні борцями за волю України не визнають. Важне, що є Україна! А ми самі добре знаємо, що тільки за неї Дивізія боролася, як і тисячі наших братів на схід від Збруча у сірих червоноармійських шинелях, які боролися проти такого самого ворога як Москва, нацистської Німеччини. А між ними такі, як Генерал Петро Григоренко, Микола Руденко, Олесь Гончар, чи як поет Василь Стус, що згинув за Україну на засланні, чи Іван Коваленко, що взяв в полон Фельдмаршала Фрідріха фон Павлюса у Сталінграді, їм же «ність числа». Бо інакше, як би Україна постала?

«Шлях звільнення кожної нації густо кропиться кров'ю», твердив Симон Петлюра. «Поховайте та вставайте, кайдани порвіте», з високої могили над Дніпром закликав до боротьби Тарас Шевченко. «Хіба ти можеш осторонь стояти і там, де ллється братня кров?, питалася Леся Українка. «Не пора, не пора, не пора, москалеві й ляхові служить!», наказував Іван Франко. Іншими словами, ідеологія дивізійників і всіх інших борців за волю України була правильна. До речі, в Дивізії служили й колишні старшини УГА й армії УНР, а вояки були дослівно з усіх українських земель. Зрешті, Дивізія творилася вже після битви під Сталінградом, коли у війну включилася Америка, і організатори її знали, що Німеччина війни не виграє, а вибір був або іти в УПА або до Дивізії.

Від 1991 року в Україні зайшли колосальні зміни, не всі з яких нам, що живемо в Канаді, до вподоби. Нпр. у виборах бере участь кілька десятків партій, а на мера Києва було аж 70 кандидатів. Але – є конституція, президенти міняються, майже зникла комуністична партія, а найважніше – підростає молоде покоління, не затроєне фальшивою комуністичною доктриною, і хоча Україна передала свою ньюклеарну зброю Росії, вигладає, що вона за якийсь час ввійде й до НАТО, а далі стане повноправним членом Европейської спільноти народів. Вивчать українці незабаром й свою правдиву історію, позбудуться комуністичної символіки, а там й заговорять рідною мовою. 67% населення каже, зрешті, що його рідна мова є українська. Немає найменших сумнівів. Як писав колись Богдан Лепкий: «Ідуть роки та оставляють людям досвід: живий народ потрапить кожню втрату відзискати колись в роках наступних, якщо лиш віри він в своє призначення не втратив». А що віри в своє призначення він не втратив, засвідчила помаранчева революція. А голодомор–геноцид, 75–річчя якого ц.р. відмічаємо, теж відкриє українцям очі, тай допоможе світові зрозуміти, яку загрозу Москва представляла вільному світові.

Правда, російська імперія ще не вповні розвалилася. Її дуже хоче відновити тепер Владімір Путін. Але навіть російський народ, скорше чи пізніше, а таки прокинеться, вже починає прокидатися. Комунікаційна революція (Бил Ґейтс), телебачення, преса, зв'язки з вільним світом, роблять своє. Останньо, вже навіть один із московських православних владик протестує проти політичної контролі уряду над московською церквою. Тож не за горами час, коли й т.зв. «українська православна цекрва Московського патріярхату» перестане служити Москві. А за «хліб» Україна дістане нафту й ґас, і все потрібне інше. Юлія Тимошенко якраз поінформувала, що жниво ц.р. на Україні буде багатше як коли небуть досі.

Закінчимо на оптимістичній ноті, дякуючи Богові за всіх борців за волю й незалежність України досі, включаючи й тих наших побратимів, що 64 роки тому віддали за неї своє життя на брідських полях. Тепер ми можемо сміло казати: «Ті, що впали, не впали надармо. Вічна їм пам'ять.

Чутки про землетрус викликали паніку в Чернівцях

(УНІАН)—Поширення чуток про землетрус викликало паніку у жителів Чернівців.

Як передає кореспондент УНІАН, чутки про імовірність виникнення землетрусу, який ніби-то буде відлунням потужного руйнівного землетрусу, що має статися в Румунії, поширюються у місті другий день поспіль.

6 серпня з полудня чернівчани сотнями залишали будинки і виходили на вулицю, матері забирали дітей з дитсадків, працівники десятків підприємств і установ не працювали. Минулої ночі у спальних мікрорайонах міста багато мешканців багатоповерхівок не спали і очікували катаклізму на вулицях.

Впродовж лише того дня на адресу Чернівецької міськради надійшло понад тисяча телефонних дзвінків від схвильованих чернівчан, які просили з'ясувати причину поширення інформації про землетрус.

Як повідомили кореспонденту УНІАН у прес-центрі Чернівецької міськради, чутки та дезінформацію про землетрус поширювали телефонами серед керівників підприємств, установ і навчальних закладів "невідомі люди, які представлялися працівниками міськвиконкому".

"Звісно, що ці люди жодного відношення до мерії не мають, а просто займаються інформаційним тероризмом. Цих людей терміново мали б розшукати співробітники СБУ", зазначили у прес-службі мерії.

Міськвиконком просить чернівчан не дослухуватися до необгрунтованих чуток, зважено оцінювати ситуацію, орієнтуватися на офіційні джерела інформації.

"Місто працює у звичному режимі, підстав для зміни режиму життєдіяльності у чернівчан немає", - запевняється у офіційному повідомленні прес-центру Чернівецької міськради.

Як повідомив УНІАН начальник управління з питань надзвичайних ситуацій та цивільного захисту населення міської ради Володимир САМОЛЮК, жодних передумов для виникнення у Чернівцях землетрусу немає.

Як повідомляв УНІАН, 6 серпня Міністерство України з питань надзвичайних ситуацій та сейсмологи спростували чутки про можливий землетрус на Буковині та в інших західних областях.

Solzhenitsyn leaves troubled legacy across former Soviet Union

By Claire Bigg

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, the Russian dissident writer who exposed the horrors of Soviet prison camps, was laid to rest Aug. 6 at a lavish ceremony in Moscow's Donskoi Monastery.

Hundreds of mourners, including Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and other top officials, gathered under a gray sky to pay their tribute to Solzhenitsyn's literary talent and unwavering crusade against totalitarianism.

But Solzhenitsyn leaves a complex legacy throughout the former communist bloc.

While the world widely admired his courage in exposing the atrocities of the Soviet prison camps, many, too, frowned on the ardent nationalism he espoused in his later years. His warm ties with former Russian President Putin, a retired KGB officer, drove a wedge with many of his fellow Soviet-era dissidents.

Russia's ethnic and religious minorities, too, took a dim view of Solzhenitsyn's calls for a Slavic revival based on Russian Orthodoxy.

"It isn't customary in such moments to express anything but praise about the deceased, but some of his articles did have an element of xenophobia," says Armenian writer Vahram Martirosian. "Against the backdrop of a strongly negative attitude towards migrants, including Armenians, this only poured oil on the flames of Russian chauvinism in today's Russia."

Aydar Khalim, a prominent Tatar author, describes Solzhenitsyn's death as a "heavy loss for humanity." But he agrees that the dissident failed the millions of non-Slavic Russians.

"On the one hand, he was considered one of the main defeaters of Stalinist tyranny in Russia. On the other hand, for us he was a guardian of the Russian Empire. His power to criticize and denounce put Solzhenitsyn on par with Lev Tolstoi, but in his famous work 'Rebuilding Russia,' for example, he strove to preserve Russia as an empire. With the fame he enjoyed, he could have tried to defend not only Russians but other ethnic groups as well," Khalim says.

In "Rebuilding Russia," an essay first published in 1990 in "Komsomolskaya pravda" — then one of the Soviet Union's most popular dailies — Solzhenitsyn urged Russia to cast off all non-Slav republics, which he claimed were sapping the Russian nation. The Nobel Peace laureate called for the creation of a new Slavic state bringing together Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and parts of Kazakhstan that he considered to be Russified.

This united Slavic state built on Russian Orthodox faith, he wrote, would provide an alternative to the West's decadent liberalism. The essay drew the ire of both those who hoped to salvage the Soviet Union and those who wished for its breakup into sovereign republics. It offended many in Central Asia, which Solzhenitsyn described as Russia's "underbelly, the thoughtless conquest of Aleksandr II."

Kazat Akmatov, a prominent Kyrgyz writer who co-chaired the Kyrgyzstan Democratic Movement party in the 1990s, says his literature was heavily politicized.

"He wrote a long article saying that Russia has to be a separate state, that it has to kick out the other 14 republics. He wrote that the republics were Russia's 'underbelly,' meaning that Russia was feeding them and would prosper if they were discarded," Akmatovs says.

Even long after the Soviet Union's collapse, Solzhenitsyn remained adamant about forming a united Slavic state.

In May 1996, a group of respected Kazakh writers attacked "Komsomolskaya pravda" for publishing an interview with Solzhenitsyn in which he called for northern Kazakhstan to be incorporated into Russia.

They demanded that the newspaper be banned in Kazakhstan, accusing it of violating their country's territorial integrity — a charge backed by the Kazakh prosecutor-general, who described Solzhenitsyn's statement as a "gross intervention in the internal affairs of an independent state."

"Komsomolskaya pravda" was eventually forced to publish an apology.

Solzhenitsyn's nationalist leanings also earned him much criticism in Belarus and Ukraine, both eager to steer away from their former imperial master after gaining independence in 1991.

Ales Antsipenka, a Belarusian philosopher, says that after the essay "Rebuilding Russia," "I realized that Mr. Solzhenitsyn was a common Russian imperialist, despite the fact that he had lashed out at the totalitarian system with such force. I saw it as a terrible contradiction because any imperialistic system is, to a certain extent, totalitarian. I saw that Solzhenitsyn was hugely contradictory in denying Belarusians and Ukrainians the right to determine their fate."

Such sentiments are widely echoed in Ukraine, despite enduring admiration for the man who shook the foundations of Soviet rule with his stinging indictment of Josef Stalin's gulag camps.

Yevhen Sverstiuk, a Ukrainian writer and poet who was jailed as a political prisoner in the 1970s, says Solzhenitsyn played a key role in bolstering the opposition throughout the former Soviet Union, including Ukraine. But Sverstiuk says the author's political views took a turn for the worse in the mid-1970s.

"After receiving the Nobel Prize, Solzhenitsyn deteriorated — he switched from the great challenge of combating the evil empire to Russian imperial issues. He fell not only in our esteem, his international image also deteriorated. Each of his words was closely monitored and sparked disenchantment after disenchantment," Sverstiuk says.

Disappointment at Solzhenitsyn's mounting nationalist rhetoric, says Sverstiuk, was all the deeper in Ukraine due to Solzhenitsyn's Ukrainian origin.

"Ukraine is a separate topic since Solzhenitsyn, whose mother was Ukrainian, had a particular attitude toward Ukraine. He sought to reject his Ukrainian half and uphold his Russian nationalist half. In this sense, he lost his stature. He joined the very narrow, reactionary, and primitive world of Russian imperial ideology. His speeches on Ukraine were horrid. They were wrong, they were full of false information, the kind of information that Russian society is being fed," Sverstiuk says.

Solzhenitsyn also angered Ukrainians by denying the country had been the victim of genocide during the 1932-33 famine. In April this year, the 89-year-old wrote that the famine had killed millions across the entire Soviet Union, adding that many of the communist officials who had helped orchestrate it were Ukrainian.

His article, in which he scolded the West for backing what he called a "loony fable," came as U.S. President George W. Bush laid a wreath in Kyiv to honor the memory of the famine's victims. It also coincided with a State Duma resolution rejecting Ukraine's claims of genocide.

RFE/RL's Armenian, Tatar-Bashkir, Kyrgyz, Belarusian, and Ukrainian Services contributed to this report

Caravaggio canvas stolen from Odesa museum

(Ukrainian Journal)—Art experts in Ukraine lamented the theft of a work by 17th century Italian artist Caravaggio from a museum, describing it as a cultural catastrophe for ex-Soviet states.

Staff at the Museum of Western and Eastern Art in the Black Sea port of Odesa discovered the painting, called the Taking of Christ, or the Kiss of Judas, missing, cut from its frame when they arrived at work on July 31.

As the museum had been closed the previous day, the thieves could have struck any time from the evening of July 29.

Police said they entered through a window, bypassing an outdated alarm system by removing a pane of glass rather than breaking it. They then escaped across the museum's roof.

"This is a cultural catastrophe, a national tragedy. There is so little art of such level in the former Soviet Union," Vitaliy Abramov, deputy head of a second museum in the city, the Odesa Art Museum, told Reuters.

"You cannot put a price on this and I am not talking about money here. It is, in every sense, priceless."

Auction houses in London declined to give a valuation of a Caravaggio.

Television pictures showed the window where the thieves had entered, its alarm disabled and its frame in bad repair.

"We came in here to find that the wind was blowing the blinds around through a window with no pane," Lyudmila Saulenko, the museum's deputy director told reporters.

"And where the painting had hung we just saw its stretcher. The painting had been removed from its frame."

The painting had been bought by a Russian ambassador to France and presented as a gift to a Russian prince before being turned over to the Odesa museum last century.

Doubts had been expressed about the painting's authenticity, but Soviet art experts in the 1950s confirmed the work was in fact by Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio. It underwent restoration work in 2006.

A version of the same painting by Caravaggio hangs in the National Gallery of Ireland in Dublin.

News reports said city police had been urging the museum to update its alarm system, dating from the mid-1990s, but the suggestion was turned down on financial grounds.

"Thefts, of course, do occur in great museums like the Hermitage (in St Petersburg) or the Louvre (in Paris)," Abramov said. "But the answer is to put in a truly effective alarm system and not postpone this."

USC Art Show Committee looking for works by youth

(UTUSC)—This year the Ukrainian Students Club (USC) at the University of Toronto will be expanding its 2008 art show to coincide with Toronto's well-known and popular art festival Nuit Blanc.

The show will kick off prior to sunset on the night of Nuit Blanche and will feature a variety of works produced by Ukrainian youth. This exhibit will create an opportunity to showcase and support the work that is emerging out of our unique Ukrainian community within Toronto's contemporary and urban society and a new and subtle way of separating the Ukrainian identity from this Flux.

This event will take place Saturday, Oct. 4, at the St. Vladimir Institute (620 Spadina Ave.) and is a free event, open to families and people of all ages. At the exhibit, a wine and cheese reception will also take place.

The USC Art Show Committee is currently searching for a variety of works by Ukrainian youth to be shown as part of the exhibit. Please submit images of works to <ukrainianartshow@gmail.com> in the format of JPG.

Additionally, please enclose a caption stating dimensions, media and name. The deadline for submissions is Sept. 1, 2008.

For more information, please contact the art show committee at <ukrainianartshow @gmail.com>.

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Кожному селянинові – державний акт на землю! До кінця року

Леся Бакалець, *Радіо Свобода*

До кінця року селяни, які мають право на земельну ділянку, тобто пай, отримають державні акти на право користування землею. У Державному комітеті із земельних питань переконують, що зараз роблять все можливе, щоб і черги скоротити, і процедуру прискорити. Проте поки що омріяного документа селяни чекають роками. Тим часом на заповітні гектари вже полюють рейдери.

Маєш державний акт – маєш і землю. На сьогодні повноцінними власниками паїв уже є понад 6 мільйонів українців. Це селяни, які при розформуванні колгоспів отримали сертифікати, що посвідчують право на частину колективної землі.

Здавалось би, громадянам тепер треба зробити небагато: просто поміняти ці сертифікати на державні акти. Але бажаного документа чекають роками. По-перше, саме процедура непроста. Але у Державному комітеті із земельних питань переконують, що цього року справи йдуть швидше і до грудня всі селяни будуть із актами на руках.

Голова Держкомітету із земельних питань Володимир Воєводін зазначає: «У першу чергу наші земельні ресурси повинні повернутися до людей, до простих людей. Ми зобов'язали розв'язати проблему черг, органи земельних ресурсів повинні працювати в приймальні дні, кожного дня, і в першу чергу працювати для громадян».

Але громадяни іноді самі не хочуть отримувати акти на право власності на землю. Як каже заступник голови Держкомзему Галина Яцишина, на це є дві суб'єктивні причини: «Коли людина отримала акт, вона отримала у власність земельну ділянку, з якої повинен платити податок. Друга причина, яка стримує бажання отримати акт, це субсидії. Малозабезпечені громадяни мають на них право, і, на жаль, ті особи, які приховують факт наявності у них сертифікатів, також не йдуть отримувати державний акт, бо вони знають, що після цього вони не отримають субсидії».

Також, на думку Галини Яцишиної, процес видачі заповітних актів можуть гальмувати і приватні структури, які беруться допомагати громадянам отримати омріяний документ. Іноді вони працюють неякісно, іноді взагалі беруть гроші і зникають.

Тому у Держкомземі радять довіряти оформлення актів державним органам. Але у такому випадку процедура триватиме півтора-два роки. В одній із приватних фірм Радіо Свобода назвали інший термін, привабливіший – до півроку, і коштує це 100 гривень.

Доки селянин ходить по інстанціях, збирає підписи та чекає, коли з'являться бланки для державних актів, він може залишитися без земельної ділянки взагалі. За цей час її власником може стати хтось інший. Цьому сприяє і недосконале земельне законодавство, і суди, як часто ухвалюють незаконні рішення.

За словами експерта з земельних питань Андрія Мартина, у такому випадку селянинові складно довести, що він має право на землю.

« Якщо до селянина цю землю вже хтось відхопив і вже неможливо громадянину його право на землю реалізувати, то буде у нас громадянин без землі. Знову ж таки, це все переводиться виключно у судову площину. Громадянин, який не зміг приватизувати земельну частку свого паю, повинен у суді потім захищати свої права. Звичайно, звичайному селянинові воювати в судах дуже складно», – зазначає Мартин.

Він каже, де є дорога земля, там і буде рейдерство. І зупинити таке явище практично неможливо, особливо за відсутністю земельного кадастру. Українська земля дорожчає, а паралельно з'являються нові схеми, як її можна незаконно привласнити. За даними МВС, за останні півроку у сфері земельних відносин викрито злочинів більше, ніж за попередні 5 років загалом.

В Сімферополі заборонили інформувати громадян про НАТО

Володимир Притула, *Радіо Свобода*

В адміністративному центрі Криму влада заборонила інформувати громадян про Північноатлантичний альянс. Рішення про це днями ухвалила сесія міської ради. Її депутати більшістю голосів оголосили Сімферополь «територією без НАТО». Представники громадськості уже оскаржили це рішення у прокуратурі.

Сімферопольські депутати висловилися проти проведення «потенційно небезпечних навчань» НАТО на території Сімферополя. Крім того, вони виступили проти організації у місті будь-яких заходів з інформування громадян про Північноатлантичний альянс – круглих столів, лекцій, семінарів, конференцій тощо.

Секретар міськради Сімферополя Володимир Блінов заявив, що «представницький орган населення міста має політичну волю і всю повноту влади», щоб не допустити виконання урядової постанови про інформування населення щодо НАТО, особливо, у тій частині, що стосується шкіл і навчальних закладів.

Таке рішення міської ради не відповідає законам, що регулюють обмін інформацією, вважає голова громадської організації «Кримська правиця» Олег Він переконаний, що таким чином сімферопольські депутати зазіхнули на Конституцію України і Загальну декларацію прав людини, які гарантують вільне поширення інформації, в тому числі – і про НАТО.

Саме тому Фомушкін звернувся до прокуратури Сімферополя з проханням розглянути постанову Сімферопольської міськради про оголошення міста «територією без НАТО та без інформації про НАТО», оскільки переконаний, що «її впровадження має каратися адміністративною і навіть кримінальною відповідальністю».

У забороні поширення інформації про Альянс Олег Фомушкін вбачає «страх чиновників втратити частину своєї теперішньої влади». За його словами, якщо люди знатимуть про НАТО більше, дізнаються про переваги членства в Альянсі для України, то радянські стереотипи про «ворожий блок та натовський чобіт» будуть зламані.

Прокуратура автономії розглянула законність рішення міської ради і мала визначитися з тим, виносити чи ні протест на рішення міськради. Речник відомства Наталя Бояркіна заявила, що прокуратура уже «готує протест і це лише питання часу».

Разом з тим секретар Сімферопольської міськради Володимир Блінов уже заявив, що депутатська більшість, яка об'єднує ліві і проросійські сили міста, обов'язково відхилить протест прокурора.

Стаття 34 Конституції України встановлює: «Кожен має право вільно збирати, зберігати, використовувати і поширювати інформацію усно, письмово або в інший спосіб – на свій вибір».

Українцям-нелегалам в Італії житиметься скрутніше

Наталка Кудрик, *Радіо Свобода*

В Італії віднедавна набрав чинності закон про посилену боротьбу зі злочинністю та нелегальною імміграцією. Окремі пункти документу викликали стурбованість серед представників української спільноти, а насамперед у тих, які роками живуть без дозволу на проживання. Якщо за офіційними даними на Апеннінах перебуває понад 200 тисяч українців, то нелегалів, за приблизними оцінками різних відомств, налічують принаймні утричі більше. Щоб з'ясувати детальніше, яким чином оновлене італійське законодавство позначиться на долі українських громадян, Радіо Свобода запросило до розмови Євгенію Баранову, консультанта з імміграційних питань товариства «Надія» з міста Бреша на півночі Італії.

— У чому полягає відмінність нового закону від попереднього стосовно того, що за нелегальне перебування в Італії передбачена кримінальна відповідальність до кількох років ув'язнення?

— Кримінальна відповідальність за нелегальне перебування в країні була завжди, не сьогодні її запровадили. Нещодавно ухвалені положення закону стали просто суворішими. І раніше були судові процеси в окремих випадках, коли людей затримували, відкривали судову справу... В інших випадках до суду діло не доходило, якщо не було обтяжувальних обставин (здійснення правопорушення). Тоді затриманій особі давали лист на депортацію, а потім уже та людина йшла, куди йшла.

— Серед громадян України, які працюють в Італії, 90 відсотків – жінки, котрі працюють переважно в приватному секторі за доглядом хворих чи як домашні робітниці. Яким чином може змінитися їхня ситуація?

— Власне, завжди італійські господарі знали: брати у хату на роботу іноземця-нелегала тягне за собою кримінальну відповідальність. Тепер з нововведеннями уряду Сильвіо Берлусконі ці вимоги стали суворішими. І тому вже багато італійських сімей замислюються, чи варто брати працівницю без відповідних документів, бо збільшився штраф для працедавця і йому також загрожує ув'язнення.

— В одному з пунктів мовиться, що у власників, які здають квартиру нелегалам, конфіскуватимуть нерухомість. У зв'язку з цим українцям тепер важче винаймати помешкання?

— Ситуація непроста. По-перше, стосовно господарів помешкання: не доведи Господи, прийде поліція, а такі облави роблять, і власник квартири, котрий здає житло нелегалам, має неприємності. Та ще більші неприємності очікують на іммігрантів, які перебувають законно на території Італії і тримають у себе квартирантів. Скажімо, я винаймаю квартиру, то відтепер навряд чи я захочу тримати на квартирі нелегала. Я можу втратити дозвіл на проживання і отримати лист на виїзд із Італії. Звичайно, для вихідців з України в цьому плані погіршаться обставини.

— Як виявляється така стурбованість людей? Можливо, хтось планує прискорити повернення на батьківщину чи, навпаки, шукати щастя на інших теренах Європи?

— Таких, що переїздять в інші європейські країни, майже немає. Назагал в Італії не так погано і не так дуже добре в сусідніх державах, щоб туди їхати. Тих, які хотіли б повернутися на батьківщину, досить багато. Але є молоді сім'ї, які пару років тому повернулися в Україну. Особливо це було після Помаранчевої революції: люди були на такому ідейному піднесенні! Вони побули вдома рік, проїли гроші і повернулися назад до Італії.

— За вашими спостереженнями, як змінюється українська спільнота в Італії, зокрема, у світлі останньої урядової кампанії проти незаконних мігрантів?

— Порівняно з тим, якою була наша громада 10 років тому, нині все змінилося. Громада фактично поділилася на людей, які осіли, починають жити в Італії, і тих, які перебувають тут із постійною мрією про повернення додому. Час проходить, а вони не повертаються. Ось ці люди у перспективі втрачені для України, втрачені для своїх родин, втрачені для себе. Ще один момент, який нас дуже турбує: тут ростуть наші діти – вони втрачають українство. Вони мусять знати рідну мову, а багато родин не приділяють цьому уваги. Я вважаю, це дуже неправильна позиція.

На заході України виникає складна епідемічна ситуація

(УНІАН)—Міністерство охорони здоров'я України попереджає про можливість підвищення захворюваності на інфекційні хвороби в постраждалих від стихії регіонах.

Як повідомили УНІАН у прес-службі МОЗ України з посиланням на Департамент розвитку медичної допомоги, у Львівській, Закарпатській, Тернопільській, Чернівецькій, Вінницькій, Івано-Франківській областях внаслідок стихійного лиха виникає складна епідемічна ситуація щодо можливості підвищення захворюваності на інфекційні хвороби.

Погіршення епідемічної ситуації може спостерігатися не лише в регіонах, що постраждали від водної стихії, а й районах, що знаходяться вздовж русла річки Дністер. Розмивання вигрібних ям, каналізаційних систем, підтоплення скотомогильників, тваринницьких ферм, цвинтарів, явне або приховане ураження джерел водопостачання, харчових продуктів (насамперед овочі, фрукти, інші продукти тривалого зберігання) створили умови для виникнення гострих інфекційних хвороб, в тому числі й особливо небезпечних, а також можливого формування нових осередків, насамперед, кишкових інфекцій, які можуть зберігатися тривалий час. Міграційні процеси в межах України, вивезення на продаж контамінованих продуктів харчування, прикордонна торгівля з сусідніми республіками харчами можуть сприяти поширенню інфекційних хвороб й за межами цих регіонів, зазначають в МОЗ.

У першу чергу, в період від кількох днів до 2 тижнів можуть почати виникати спалахи гострих кишкових інфекцій бактерійної (шигельоз, сальмонельоз, ешерихіози, харчові токсикоінфекції) та вірусної (ентеровірусна, ротавірусна, норовірусна, аденовірусна інфекції) етіології. Не виключається можливість появи випадків холери. Дещо пізніше, у термін від 2 тижнів до 1 місяця можлива поява випадків черевного тифу, паратифів А і В, вірусних гепатитів А, Є. Уже в найближчі дні можливе збільшення захворюваності на лептоспіроз, ентеровірусні менінгіти, поява випадків сибірки, туляремії.

Греки заарештували українських моряків, які перевозили нелегалів

(Deutsche Well)—Грецька берегова охорона 2серпня затримала біля південного берегу острова Крит вантажне судно, яке перевозило нелегальних мігрантів. Як повідомляє інформаційна агенція dpa, заарештовано чотирьох членів екіпажу судна - це громадяни України. Яких заходів вживатимуть до них грецькі правоохоронці, поки не відомо.

Is Ukraine on the brink of an energy crisis?

Business

By Roman Kupchinsky

(Jamestown Foundation) — Come January 2009 Ukraine will, in all likelihood, begin paying Russia's Gazprom in the range of $400 per 1,000 cubic meters for natural gas or $22 billion per year. Presently the country pays $179 per 1,000 cubic meters, or $9.9 billion per year. Will it be able to survive the new price?

For years Ukraine has been hard pressed to pay its debts to Gazprom and has regularly been indebted to Gazprom to the tune of about $1 billion per year.

Gazprom CEO Alexei Miller stated that by July 2008 Ukraine had hoarded 1 billion cubic meters of gas — destined for sale to European customers — into its underground gas storage facilities, withholding it from RosUkrEnergo, the Swiss-based intermediary company that sells Central Asian gas to a number of European companies. Miller explained that this was a maneuver by Naftogaz Ukraine, the Ukrainian state-owned oil and gas monopoly, to stock up on cheaper gas in order to reduce costly imports in 2009.

All indications point to the fact that Ukraine is decidedly unprepared for such a dramatic increase in energy costs and few believe it will be able to convince Central Asian leaders to lessen the blow by reducing the price at which they sell their gas to Gazprom or to make the increase incremental over a span of five years.

Yulia Tymoshenko, the Ukrainian prime minister, held out hope by saying that during her meeting with Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin in June 2008, Putin promised to distribute the price increase over a five-year span. Earlier, however, Putin told the Ukrainian leadership that Russian "subsidies" for their energy imports had come to an end.

Both sides in the ongoing negotiations have been careful thus far in their comments and have avoided confrontational remarks — the sole exception being Ukrainian Economics Minister Bohdan Danylyshyn, who stated that if the price of gas were to jump to $400, Ukraine should block Russia's entry into the World Trade Organization.

Gazprom could, conceivably, agree to an incremental price increase for Ukraine over a span of five years, thus allowing the country to radically improve its highly energy-wasteful economy and reduce yearly gas imports from the current 55 billion cubic meters (bcm) to 40 bcm or less and to develop alternative energy sources. In the end, however, Ukraine will need to pay the accumulated debt.

The worst case scenario would be for Gazprom to refuse to grant the Ukrainians debt postponement and demand cash up front for gas deliveries. This could be a death blow to Ukrainian industry and agriculture which are highly reliant on gas for manufacturing and fertilizer production.

Such a price increase could have unpredictable consequences for Ukrainian politics. Many industrialists might blame President Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Tymoshenko for not preparing the country for such a predictable escalation of energy costs and might not support them in the 2009 presidential election.

Voters in Eastern Ukraine could lose some of their pro-Russian enthusiasm if higher gas prices lead to wide-scale unemployment in their region. Some would place the blame on Russia for "squeezing" Ukraine — and them — into an economic crisis.

Others however might argue that if Ukraine were part of Russia, they would pay low Russian domestic prices for gas and thus avoid a crisis.

The opposition pro-Russian Party of the Regions has maintained a silence about the price increase knowing that it shares full responsibility with the ruling coalition for Ukraine's inability to cope with rising energy costs. Nonetheless, if the increase is not modified, Viktor Yanukovych, the leader of the Party of the Regions, will in all probability benefit most and be elected president.

Gazprom and the Kremlin might be tempted to play the "gas card" in order to see Yanukovych elected and to gain control — if not direct ownership — of the Ukrainian trunk gas pipeline, a long-time objective of Russian policy meant to give Gazprom the ultimate say over the largest supply route of Russian gas to Europe.

With a possible debt of over $10 billion by late 2009, the new Ukrainian government might be forced to sell the pipeline to Gazprom — as well as a substantial part of its industrial base, maintain the Russian Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol and renounce its intention to join NATO.

Ukraine consumer prices down 0.5% in July

(Ukrainian Journal)—Ukraine's consumer prices dropped 0.5% on the month in July, reacting to a bumper grain harvest this season as cash-strapped farmers had rushed to sell the commodity, depressing the prices.

The development, however, triggered concerns that without the government's quick intervention grain prices may fall to the level that would discourage farmers from producing grain next season.

The consumer prices were up 14.9% in January through July, down slightly from 15.5% hike reported in January through June, mostly reflecting falling prices in the food sector, the State Statistics Committee reported, Aug. 6.

The falling prices fueled some optimism that the government may have been finally getting inflation under control, ending rampant increases earlier this year.

But the country's overall inflation picture still looked grim with consumer prices up 26.8% in July compared with July 2007, still one of the biggest such indicators in the world.

The government predicted inflation at 15.9% in 2008, but economists thought prices will probably grow faster. For example, the World Bank two weeks ago changed its Ukrainian inflation forecast to 21.5% in 2008 from 17% seen earlier.

The price drop in July was mostly attributed to falling food prices, which had declined 1.3% on the month, according to the committee. Most of other prices have actually increased in the period, including transportation prices up 2.1% and housing and utilities prices up 0.9%, according to the committee.

The falling food prices were caused by massive selling of grain in July as farmers have started to harvest the commodity, analysts said. Due to greater areas planted under grain and better weather this year, Ukraine is expected to produce one of the biggest grain harvests in recent history.

Ukrainian farmers produced 33.5 million metric tons of grain as of Aug. 6 from 75% area planted under grains, the government reported.

The figures suggest Ukraine may be able to produce up to 45 million metric tons of grain in the 2008/09 marketing season, a major improvement from the previous year.

But the record grain harvest has been forcing farmers to sell the commodity quickly due to shortage of grain elevators, analysts said. The existing grain elevators may only hold 30 million metric tons.

On the other hand, the massive selling of grain depressed prices to the level that analysts said the development may have consequences and farmers would be discouraged from planting more grain to be harvested in 2009.

"[The government] must immediately start [intervention] purchases of grain, first of all feed grain and barley," Volodymyr Klimenko, the president of the Ukrainian Grain Union, told a government meeting on Aug. 6.

The government must spend at least 3 billion hryvnias to buy 1.5 million metric tons of feed grain and barley in the near future to support the prices, Klimenko said.

But Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, who a week earlier predicted that grain prices would soon stop their steep decline, on Aug. 6 said there were "preconditions" for deflation in August.

"We have all preconditions to make sure that there will be deflation [in August]," Tymoshenko said.

EU countries increase natural gas imports

(Ukrainian Journal)—European Union countries, seeking to hedge themselves against possible natural gas supply disruptions in the event of a dispute between Ukraine and Russia in December, dramatically increased imports of gas this year.

EU's imports from Russia via its key Ukrainian route rose 21.4% on the year to 74.4 billion cubic meters in January-July, according to UkrTransGaz, a state gas shipper

"The transit volumes depend on consumers in Europe," Volodymyr Saprykin, an energy sector analyst with Razumkov Center, said. "Gas prices are growing and it is [still] not clear whether there will be new gas transit wars [between Russia and Ukraine]."

"That's why European countries try to fill their gas tanks at full capacity," he said.

The increased gas transit underscores fears in Europe that Ukraine and Russia may again fail to solve their gas dispute before Dec. 31, which suggests that the development may affect the European deliveries.

Russian gas supplies to the EU were disrupted for four days in 2006, between Jan. 1 and Jan. 4, after a dispute had forced Gazprom to suspend deliveries to Ukraine, at the same time affecting European deliveries.

But the bigger gas reserves in Europe de-facto also give Russian state-controlled gas company Gazprom more negotiating power when it comes to talks with Ukraine.

The revelations that more gas is moved to fill European gas reserves comes a month after Gazprom has praised Ukraine for allowing record number of gas to be moved via its pipeline.

UkrTransGaz, a subsidiary of Naftogaz Ukrayiny, said the high transit volume shows that Ukraine's gas network is reliable.

"The record amount of gas transit once again confirmed that UkrTransGaz maintains Ukrainian gas transportation route in good condition and is reliable partner of Gazprom in gas transportation to Europe," the company said in a statement.

Ukraine transported 9.1 billion cu m of natural gas to Europe in July, down from 9.6 billion cu m moved in June, but up from 8.3 billion cu m shipped in July 2007, UkrTransGaz reported.

UkrTransGaz said natural gas shipments via its major Slovakian route increased by 27% year-on-year to 48.6 billion cu m in January-July, compared with 38.4 billion cu m shipped one year ago.

At the same time, natural gas deliveries to Hungary increased to 7.4 billion cu m in January-July, up from 5.7 billion cu m, while gas shipments to Poland rose to 2.9 billion cu m from 2.4 billion cu m one year ago.

In January-July Ukraine also moved 15.5 billion cu m of natural gas via the Russia-Ukraine-Balkans route, including Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey, up from 14.8 billion cu m shipped one year ago, the company said.

Ukraine, which owns major gas transportation network, moves more than 110 billion cu m/year of gas, or 80% of all Russian Europe-bound gas. Russia supplies a quarter of Europe's gas needs.

Ukraine shipped a total of 112.1 billion cu m of natural gas to Europe in 2007, down from 113.8 billion cu m shipped in 2006 and down from 121.5 billion cu m shipped in 2005.

Briefly

Vanco to press on with lawsuit

(Ukrainian Journal)—A joint venture led by Vanco Energy, an independent U.S. oil company, said Aug. 1 it will not suspend its lawsuit against Ukraine until the government starts real consultations to settle its license dispute. The statement from Vanco Prykerchenska comes two days after Yevhen Korniychuk, the first deputy justice minister who has been authorized by the government to hold the talks, said suspending the lawsuit was the only condition for the consultations to start.

PM blocks shipments

(Ukrainian Journal)—Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko has taken steps to permanently block supplies of Caspian oil via Ukraine's Odesa-Brody pipeline to the European Union, a top official at President Viktor Yushchenko's office said Aug. 1. Maryna Stavniychuk, a deputy chief of staff at the Yushchenko office, said Tymoshenko loyalists filed an appeal to the Constitutional Court seeking to block Yushchenko's order starting Caspian oil supplies. "According to my information, the appeal has been submitted by Tymoshenko lawmakers," Stavniychuk said at a press conference.

NBU reserves expand

(Ukrainian Journal)—The National Bank of Ukraine's gross international reserves in July expanded by 6.98%, or by $2.475 billion, to $37.914 billion, whereas in June they grew by 3%, or $1.026 billion, the central bank reported on its official Web site. Since the start of the year, the NBU's international reserves have expanded by 16.8%, or $5.452 billion, from $32.462 billion. As was reported, in 2007, the NBU boosted its forex reserves by 45.9%, or by $10.21 billion.

Foreign capital level 'too high'

(Ukrainian Journal)—The presence of foreign capital in the Ukrainian banking system has exceeded a safe level, according to Association of Ukrainian Banks President Oleksandr Suhoniako. "The volume of foreign capital in the banking system's capital has grown to 40.5%. I think that the level is too high. The problems that we faced this year are 80% or even 90% linked with the fact that the level of the foreign capital presence is high," he said, July 25.

Platini wants support for Poland and Ukraine

The Glasgow Herald, Aug. 4, 2008

Michel Platini, the president of UEFA, yesterday urged the international community to back Ukraine and Poland in organising Euro 2012 despite doubts that the former communist states, especially Ukraine, are able to do so.

Platini said such public support was vital "in order to implement the democratic decision made by the UEFA executive committee to hold Euro 2012 in Poland and Ukraine".

UEFA chose the joint bid last year over submissions from Italy and another joint proposal from Hungary and Croatia, but delays in rebuilding stadiums and proceeding with the construction and modernisation of roads, airports and hotels have given rise to doubts that Ukraine will be unable to fulfill its commitments.

UEFA officials have denied suggestions that contingency plans have been drawn up to hand the tournament to another country.

One of the key issues dogging Ukrainian organisers is the renovation of Kyiv's 84,000-seat Olympic stadium, due to hold the Euro 2012 final.

A Taiwanese firm won a tender earlier this year to modernise the facility, but Ukrainian officials have since ceased all dealings with the company and reopened the bidding to German firm GMP and Britain's Foster and Partners.

Rennes prevail over Tavria in epic shoot-out

(UEFA)—Illia Galiuza's penalty miss gifted Stade Rennais FC a place in the UEFA Cup second qualifying round, but SC Tavriya Simferopol bowed out of the final UEFA Intertoto Cup with their heads held high, July 26.

Galiuza's miss proved to be the final act for the Ukrainian side, after they clawed back a 1-0 deficit from the first leg in France. Playing in an aggressive 3-4-3 formation against more defensive-minded visitors, Tavriya did not carve out many chances, but Georgian striker Vasil Gigiadze converted one to ensure extra time and then penalties.

In the first half, midfielder Galiuza shot wide with just Rennes goalkeeper Nicolas Douchez to beat, and Volodymyr Homenyuk was similarly unlucky on the hour as his attempted lob drifted just over. However, Tavriya did not give up hope and were eventually rewarded as Lucky Idahor chipped a loose ball into the path of the on-rushing Gigiadze, who headed home on 70 minutes.

Rennes responded, with the towering Olivier Thomert proving a real menace but Galiuza almost killed the game off in the last moments of normal time, missing the target from seven metres. Extra time proved uneventful, unlike the shoot-out which saw both Tavriya goalkeeper Andrii Dykan and Douchez save two efforts as well as scoring one each before Galiuza failed to convert his second spot-kick of the evening.

Dynamo to pry away Kravchenko

(UEFA)—Ukraine midfielder Serhiy Kravchenko will join FC Dynamo Kyiv on a five-year contract in January, or sooner if the UEFA Champions League challengers can persuade FC Vorskla Poltava to release the 25-year-old before he becomes a free agent in the winter.

Kravchenko has developed into a key player at Vorskla over the last couple of campaigns, taking his tally of top-flight appearances to 65 and earning two caps for his country.

"Dynamo are a great team. I think every player born in Ukraine dreams of playing for a club of Dynamo's calibre," said Kravchenko, adding of his status at Vorskla: "It's not common [to cancel a contract prematurely] but these things do happen once in a lifetime. Time will tell whether it's the right move but at the moment I'm just happy to become a Dynamo player."

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Athletes head to Olympics

Sports

By Yuliya Popova,
Kyiv Post, July 30, 2008

If there is one phrase in Chinese you need to learn for the Olympics in Beijing this August, it is "Wukelan jiayou!" In English, it means "Go Ukraine."

If you manage to get it right wherever you are, in a sports bar or watching the games in person, you may win over an army of Chinese fans to support the 254 competing Ukrainian athletes. This is the largest contingent Ukraine has fielded for the summer Olympics, 11 more than the previous high.

The Ukrainian athletes will compete in 28 of the 35 sports with strong hopes at medals in swimming, track-and-field, free-style wrestling and weightlifting.

On July 20, some 20,000 people flooded Kyiv's Independence Square to wish the athletes luck before their departure for China. The confluence of B-list celebrities, red carpet, tipsy youths and President Victor Yushchenko, late as usual, all could have turned it into a standard holiday evening at Maidan if not for the athletes' parade.

Tidy, gleaming and confident, the athletes looked like a flight crew ready to take off. The Olympic Committee has swapped their regular sports suits this year for the bright yellow skirts and white trousers paired with blue jackets and knitted ties. They said that they wanted to add a dash of style to the usual comfort and practicality, but some spectators in the crowd compared the new outfits to circus costumes.

As they say, don't judge a book by its cover. According to Sport and Youth Minister Yuriy Pavlenko, Ukraine has some very strong athletes and is hoping to return home with a dozen or more medals.

Five-time Olympic champion in swimming, also known as "the goldfish of Ukraine," Yana Klochkova, currently holds the short-course world record in the 400-meter individual medley.

Many Ukrainians hope that she could repeat her stellar performance and get two gold medals for the third time.

"If she managed to succeed again, she would surpass any Olympic athlete's achievements. It would be an ultimate victory," said her coach, Serhiy Fesenko.

Klochkova, however, took a break after her success in Athens and only resumed training last year. In one of her interviews, she said it could be the last Games in her career.

In Beijing, she will carry the Ukrainian flag at the opening ceremony, which will start at eight o'clock on the eighth minute and eighth second of the eighth day of the eighth month. This number is considered lucky in Chinese tradition. The closing ceremony will take place on Aug. 24, which equals three times eight in the eighth month.

Ukrainian athletes walk through Kyiv's Maidan during their sendoff celebration.

Another great swimmer to look out for is Oleg Lisogor. He is also a current world record holder of the 50-meter breast stroke. This distance, however, is not an Olympic standard, so Oleg will have to try to outswim his rivals in a 100-meter pool to collect a medal.

If you prefer gymnastics, watch out for Anna Bessonova, a rhythmic gymnast who swapped ballet for the big sport. Her father played football for Dynamo Kyiv, and her mother has twice won world championships in rhythmic gymnastics. Their 24-year-old daughter became a legend in her own right when she finished third at the Olympics in Athens and recently ended the 10-year dominance that Russian gymnasts have had on the sport. She won the World Championship in Patras, Greece, making her gold medal the only gold that the Ukrainian team secured in 2007.

Almost two-meters tall, track-and-field athlete Serhiy Demyduk collected good-luck charms from sports officials and sponsors at the brightly lit stage on Maidan. Yushchenko presented the team with a holy icon saying that "it will give every athlete unlimited opportunities."

A decorated hurdler, Demyduk is considered a mascot for Ukraine.

His team partner, the reigning Olympic shot put champion, Yuriy Bilonoh, stands exactly two meters tall and usually weighs in at 135 kilos, which makes him one of the tallest and heaviest competitors at the Games, even in a discipline which attracts some of the giants of sport.

Iryna Merleni, a 25 year-old wrestler rarely wins by points. In freestyle wrestling, she prefers to throw her rival right down.

"Sometimes she asks to hit her before the match to get herself worked up," says coach Leontiy Gadaichuk, describing her aggressive style and strategy. When she won gold at the last Olympics in Athens, she could not hold back emotions and jumped on the referee's hands to kiss him.

If 168 kg Olha Korobka wins a medal at the Olympics in Beijing, she will probably pick up the referee herself. A decorated weightlifter, she currently holds a European record in the snatch with 133 kilograms, and in the clean and jerk (or the "king of lifts") with 164 kilograms.

Sports experts were astonished to see Ludmyla Blonska return to compete in the pentathlon. She served a two-year ban after testing positive for steroids in 2003. This year she finished eighth at the World Indoor Championships and hopes to finally mend her reputation with a medal in Beijing.

"We know how incredible the competition will be and how hard it will be to perform in (Beijing) weather conditions. But all of Ukraine will be cheering for you," said Serhiy Bubka, the chairman of Ukraine's National Olympic Committee, addressing his team at Independence Square.

The former pole vaulting legend knows that Ukraine's biggest hurdle to success is old training equipment. He is convinced that Ukrainian athletes are not in equal condition compared to athletes from other countries.

"I know this because when I did pole vaulting, sometimes my pole broke into four pieces," said Bubka in an interview with Novynar, a sister publication of the Kyiv Post.

Olympic swimmer Yana Klochkova missed the last world championship because she got sick in a swimming pool where the ceiling and windows have been in need of a repair.

Also, Ukrainian athletes have been training with second-hand equipment. Weightlifters now use Swedish weights only because four years ago Ukraine hosted the European Championship and weights were left over after the competition.

Talking on Radio Liberty on July 27, Minister Pavlenko said that in the last decade not a single sports center has been built to train athletes at the Olympic level.

"However, the government tripled the sports budget in the last three years," he added, sounding convinced of the revival of professional sports in Ukraine.

At the last Olympics in Athens, Ukraine won 23 medals, ranking 12th among 202 participants. This year's tally of medals could be two times less, according to Pavlenko.

But don't count the chickens before they hatch. And in the final countdown to the Games, say "Wukelan jiayou!" in perfect Mandarin, even if watching the Olympics in front of a Chinese-made television set.

Women's gymnastics team in Beijing.

Dynamo deny late Drogheda charge

Match report by Igor Linnyk from Kyiv

(UEFA)—FC Dynamo Kyiv survived a late scare in their home return leg against Drogheda United FC, holding on for a 2-2 draw to set up a mouthwatering UEFA Champions League third qualifying round tie against FC Spartak Moskva, Aug. 6.

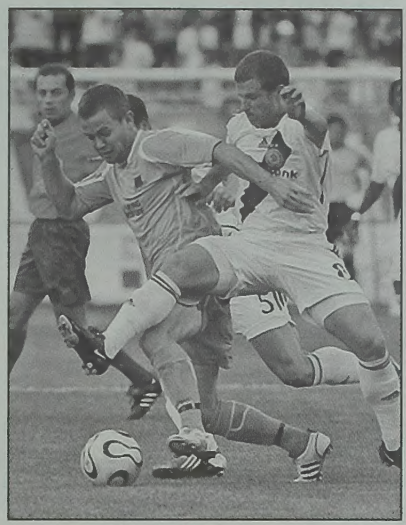
Little drama was expected after the Ukrainian giants triumphed 2-1 in Ireland the previous week, and Yuri Semin's team seemed to snuff out any lingering danger when Olexandr Aliyev fired in from outside the area with 12 minutes gone.

That only served to put the hosts to sleep, however, and after Eamon Zayed failed to beat Taras Lutsenko in a one-on-one contest with the Dynamo goalkeeper, Shane Robinson levelled from the spot four minutes before the interval following Badr El Kaddouri's foul on Richard Baker.

Despite mastering possession after the break, Dynamo relied on set-pieces to threaten Jame Ewings' goal, until rapid interplay between Artem Milevskiy and Betão proved too much for the visitors, who brought down the Brazilian defender in the area.

Milevskiy converted the penalty, but Drogheda refused to give up and equalised again when Lutsenko's mistake allowed Graham Gartland to head into an empty net.

Ollie Cahill then missed a good chance and Robinson saw a shot parried against the woodwork in added time, however Dynamo just about managed to cling on.



Oleksander Aliev, right, of FC Dynamo Kyiv challenges for the ball against Shane Robinson of Ireland's FC Drogheda United of Dublin during their Champions League second qualifying round soccer match in Kyiv, Aug. 6. (AP Photo/Efrem Lukatsky)

Dynamo late show in Dublin

Match report by Aidan Fitzmaurice from Dublin

(UEFA)—FC Dynamo Kyiv's Olexandr Aliyev struck four minutes from time to send Irish title-holders Drogheda United FC to defeat on their UEFA Champions League debut in Dublin on July 29.

Drogheda United had recovered from conceding an early Taras Mikhalik goal at Dalymount Park to equalise at the start of the second half through Adam Hughes.

But their hopes of travelling to Ukraine on level terms on Aug. 6 were ended when midfielder Aliyev got past marker Richie Barker to fire in the late winner.

Dynamo had begun as well as they would finish this second qualifying round first leg.

They took a 23rd-minute lead as Mikhalik connected with Ognjen Vukojevi_'s free-kick to send the ball flashing past goalkeeper Jamie Ewings.

The Drogheda custodian played a crucial part in keeping the score at 1-1 once midfielder Hughes had restored parity moments after half-time with a header from Fahrudin Kudozovic's cross.

However, Ewings could do nothing about Aliyev's 86th-minute strike which broke Drogheda's sequence of five unbeaten European matches at their temporary Dalymount Park home.

Old foes prepare to renew ties

(UEFA)—FC Spartak Moskva and FC Dynamo Kyiv are looking forward to reviving memories of an "unforgettable derby" of yesteryear after the former Soviet giants were potentially paired together in the final qualifying round of the UEFA Champions League, Aug. 1.

Although Dynamo coach Yuri Semin on Aug. 1 would look no further than the second leg of the tie against Drogheda United FC — a contest the Ukrainian side lead 2-1 going into the Aug. 6 return on home soil — the Spartak camp could barely contain their excitement. "I'm very happy with the draw," said CEO Sergei Shavlo. "We have an unforgettable derby from Soviet times." The clubs were the most successful in the old USSR, Dynamo claiming a record 13 titles to Spartak's 12, although the Muscovites can take heart from their head-to-head record: played 119, won 59, lost 39.

"I am sure that this match will draw a lot of supporters," added Shavlo, whose club can expect to fill the 70,000-seat Luzhniki Stadium for the opening skirmish on Aug. 12-13. Dynamo's home fixture a fortnight later will fall victim to Ukraine's preparations for UEFA EURO 2012™. With their NSK Olimpiyskiy ground closed for reconstruction, the concluding leg will be played at the Valeriy Lobanovskiy Stadium, a venue with a capacity of just 18,000. "The consensus is that starting at home is a disadvantage but I don't think that this is the case this time," said Shavlo "Dynamo will come to Moscow to play attacking football, and we will not sit back and defend in Kyiv either. I think we're in for a couple of uncompromising matches. The chances are 50-50."

Dynamo coach Semin knows all about getting one over the red and whites having done so on numerous occasions during his time in charge of FC Lokomotiv Moskva. The Russian said: "For starters we need to beat Drogheda. Once we do that we'll be thinking of our next opponents." Club president Ihor Surkis was more forthright, saying: "We could have faced the likes of Juventus, [FC] Barcelona or Liverpool [FC] – all of whom are stronger than Spartak these days. The away game will be played on artificial turf which could be a problem for us."

The sides also have previous in the UEFA Champions League. Drawn together in Group B, Dynamo came back from 2-0 down to win the home game 3-2 before going down 1-0 in Moscow. On that occasion both teams were eliminated; this time one will claim significantly more than bragging rights with a spot in the lucrative group stage awaiting the winners.

Kalynychenko back home with Dnipro

(UEFA)—Ukrainian international midfielder Maxym Kalynychenko has rejoined FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk eight years after leaving for FC Spartak Mosvka.

Kalynychenko, 29, has signed an initial three-year contract with Dnipro, eight days after he was transfer-listed by Spartak coach Stanislav Cherchesov.

"Dnipro have big ambitions, a strong squad and the finances to match," said Kalynychenko, who began his career with Dnipro, making 39 league appearances.

At Spartak, the 2006 FIFA World Cup veteran scored 22 goals in 134 league matches, winning two Russian championships.

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UCAMA inaugurates workshop series

(KCUE)—The Ukrainian Canadian Museum and Archives of Alberta (UCAMA) held a workshop on korovai decorating, July 26. The workshop was run by Natalie Kononenko, Professor of Folklore and Kule Chair of Ukrainian Ethnography at the University of Alberta and Elsie Kawulych, a master baker.

Kononenko began the session by giving a short lecture which placed the korovai, a traditional wedding bread, in the context of other ritual Ukrainian ritual breads. Breads and grain products are used to articulate the entire human life, she said. In the past, the midwife would welcome the newborn by wiping the infant's body with a soft bread crust. The midwife, in turn, would receive gifts of bread from the children she delivered on all holidays. During the wedding, the korovai was the centre piece of the celebration and often both the groom's family and the bride's would bake a korovai for the festivities. In many places, small breads called shyshky were also baked and used to invite the wedding guests. Breads appear at the end of life and a bread is given away, on behalf of the deceased, to all those who help with the funeral. Of all the ritual breads, the korovai is probably the most magical and, in Ukraine, it is used to insure the stability of the marriage and the well-being of the couple. In Canada, the korovai has acquired a new meaning and a new magical power. It is used to express Ukrainian identity and to unite Ukrainians and non-Ukrainians alike in the celebration of the marriage.

After Kononenko's lecture, the audience saw two short videos. One featured Kawulych baking the korovai step by step. The other video, filmed by Yanina Vihovska in Pidhaitsi, a village near Lutsk, Ukraine, showed a group of women preparing a number of korovai breads for a wedding that took place in May, 2008. After the videos, Kawulych decorated a korovai in front of the assembled group with pre-made decorations. She explained that paired doves, symbolic of the couple, need to face each other and that the doves on the sides of the korovai need to face upward, looking toward heaven. The korovai is typically also decorated with periwinkle, an evergreen that symbolizes the eternity of the marriage, and Kawulych showed the group how to lace the periwinkle between the doves.

The demonstrations were followed by a hands-on dove making session. Kawulych provided the special dough used for korovai decorations and workshop participants practiced making doves, leaves, branches, and other traditional korovai decorative motifs under the guidance of Kawulych and Kononenko. Participants baked their decorations on the premises so that they could take them home. They also got to sample the results of Kawulych's culinary skills as she shared one of the korovai breads that she had made with them. A number of people also toured the Museum premises, looking at traditional costumes and textiles, religious artifacts, photographs, and the many other items on display.

The workshop proved extremely popular. Twenty two people attended and there was also a lengthy waiting list because only a limited number could be accommodated on the premises of UCAMA's old museum. Workshops planned for the future include embroidery and other textile crafts, pysanka decorating, doll and Christmas decoration making and, of course, another korovai decorating session. Storytelling sessions for both children and adults are under consideration. A wonderful new building for UCAMA is in the planning stage. We look forward to this new facility as it will allow bigger workshops along with improved display and storage facilities for museum collections.

Elsie Kawulych helps two young workshop participants while older attendees work on their own.

Ukraine genealogical office representatives visit Canada

(Alberta-Ukraine Genealogical Project/KCUE)—From May 25-June 7, representatives of the Ukraine genealogical research office visited Canada on a lecture and study tour to become better acquainted with archives and family history research in Alberta.

The Ukraine partner in the Alberta-Ukraine Genealogical Project, this genealogical research office in Lviv coordinates the requests from Albertans to locate genealogical and family history documents in western Ukraine's archives. Representing the Ukraine genealogical research office for this trip was Prof. Stepan Pavljuk and Dr. Roman Chmelyk, Director and Vice-Director respectively, of the Institute of Ethnology in Lviv.

As part of their study tour in Canada, they participated in the following activities during their two week stay in Canada:

- Meetings with the Government of Alberta for discussions furthering Alberta-Ukraine genealogical agreements on genealogical research and service for re-establishing family ties for people living in Ukraine and Alberta;
- Meeting with, and lecture presentations for, Alberta partners of the AUG projectTour of east central Alberta and the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village;
- Tour of the Provincial Archives of Alberta and Basilian Father's Museum in Mundare;
- Tour to Stry, Alberta to participate in the commencement of fieldwork for the Documenting Church Properties in Rural Communities in Alberta project;
- Lecture presentations at the annual conference for the Canadian Association for Ukrainian Ethnology, part of the larger Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences.

June 5 the Peter and Doris Kule Centre for Ukrainian and Canadian Folklore (Kule Folklore Centre) at the University of Alberta, and the Shevchenko Scientific Society in Canada-Western Branch hosted Chmelyk, and Dr. Pavljuk.

Chmelyk spoke at the University of Alberta about the vast collection of ethnographic items in the Museum of Ethnology in Lviv. It has been accumulating them since the 1800's — especially clothing, ceramics and posters from various provinces of Ukraine and all across Europe. He spoke about rare collections of pysanky and other objects the museum houses. He emphasized the need to preserve material heritage for future generations.

Professor Pavljuk made his presentation at the Edmonton Plast Hall about "Contemporary Ethnic Process in Ukraine". He spoke on the need for the Ukrainian Government to pay increased attention to the development and preservation of Ukrainian Cultural identity in his country and explained how this could be developed through closer governmental partnerships with cultural organizations.

The public lectures were well attended by people from the Ukrainian community in Edmonton as well as the University of Alberta.

As part of their role in the Alberta-Ukraine Genealogical Project, Prof. Pavljuk and Dr. Chmelyk also discussed the status of the Ukraine genealogical research office in providing a service for Albertans to gain access to archival and family history documents from archives in western Ukraine. Results pertaining to research orders from the Lviv oblast study area were delivered to the Alberta genealogical research office.

The results of this tour will lead to more promising projects furthering families wishing to research their past in Alberta and in Ukraine.

Reliving Ukrainian pioneer experiences: Prof. Stepan Pavljuk (left) and Dr. Roman Chmelyk (centre) tour the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village with Radomir Bilash, Senior Historian (right).